THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

BEYOND

AHMED • GLEASON • MacKAY • THOMPSON • WELLS • ZIGLAR
BAGLEY • DOWLING • FORNÉS • GÓMEZ • MEDINA • PICHELLI

MARVEL

BEYOND

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

PETER PARKER has just been through hell. A sinister war and the most harrowing fight of his life has left Peter very scathed and left Peter's best friend since college, **HARRY OSBORN**, very dead. Peter's gone through intense situations before but has always bounced back. He'll do it again this time, right?

BEN REILLY has the proportional speed, strength, and agility of a **SPIDER**, adhesive fingertips and toes, and the unique precognitive awareness of danger called "**SPIDER-SENSE**"!

After the tragic death of his **Uncle Ben**, Ben Reilly understood that with great power there must also come great responsibility. He became the crimefighting super hero called...

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN BEYOND

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #75-76
Zeb Wells/Writer
Patrick Gleason/Artist
Marcio Menyz/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & Alejandro Sánchez/Cover Art

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2021: SPIDER-MAN/VENOM
Zeb Wells/Writer
Patrick Gleason/Artist
Alejandro Sánchez/Color Artist
Patrick Gleason & Alejandro Sánchez/Cover Art

"JANINE"
Zeb Wells/Writer
Ivan Fiorelli/Artist
Dee Cunniffe/Color Artist

"KAFKA"
Zeb Wells/Writer
Ivan Fiorelli/Artist
Edgar Delgado/Color Artist

"LOVE AND MONSTERS"
Kelly Thompson/Writer
Travel Foreman/Artist
Jim Campbell/Color Artist

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #77-78
Kelly Thompson/Writer
Sara Pichelli with Jim Towe (#78)/Artists
Nolan Woodard with Rachelle Rosenberg (#78) /Color Artists
Arthur Adams & Alejandro Sánchez/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #78.BEY
Jed MacKay/Writer
Eleonora Carlini/Artist
Federico Blee/Color Artist
Leinil Francis Yu & Sunny Gho/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #79-80
Cody Ziglar/Writer
Michael Dowling/Artist
Jesus Aburtov with Erick Arciniega (#80) /Color Artists
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Cody Ziglar/Writer
Ivan Fiorelli with Carlos Gómez & Paco Medina/Artists
Rachelle Rosenberg /Color Artist
Mark Bagley, John Dell & Brian Reber/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #81
Saladin Ahmed/Writer
Carlos Gómez/Artist
Bryan Valenza/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & Romulo Fajardo Jr./Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #82
Saladin Ahmed/Writer
Jorge Fornés/Artist
Dan Brown/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & Romulo Fajardo Jr./Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #83
Patrick Gleason /Writer & Artist
Morry Hollowell & Nathan Fairbairn/Color Artists
Arthur Adams & Romulo Fajardo Jr./Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #84-85
Cody Ziglar/Writer
Paco Medina/Penciler
Paco Medina (#84-85), Walden Wong (#85), Wayne Faucher (#85), Andrew Hennessy (#85), Victor Olazaba (#85) & Roberto Poggi (#85)/Inkers
Espen Grundetjern /Color Artist
Arthur Adams & Alejandro Sánchez/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #86, #88
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Michael Dowling/Artist
Bryan Valenza/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & Alejandro Sánchez/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #87
Jed MacKay/Writer
Carlos Gómez/Artist
Bryan Valenza/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & Alejandro Sánchez/Cover Art

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Jed MacKay/Writer
C.F. Villa/Artist
Erick Arciniega /Color Artist
J. Scott Campbell & Sabine Rich/Cover Art

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Jan Bazaldua & Jim Towe/Artists
Jim Campbell/Color Artist
Nick Bradshaw & Rachelle Rosenberg/Cover Art
Danny Khazem/Editor

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Mark Bagley/Penciler
Andrew Hennessy (#89-90), John Dell (#89-90), Andy Owens (#90), Wayne Faucher (#90) & Victor Olazaba (#90)/Inkers
Bryan Valenza/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & Jim Campbell/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #91
Kelly Thompson/Writer
Sara Pichelli & Fran Galán/Artists
Brian Reber/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & Alejandro Sánchez/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #92
Kelly Thompson/Plot
Jed MacKay/Script
Fran Galán, Sara Pichelli & Zé Carlos/Artists
Brian Reber/Color Artist
Arthur Adams & Alejandro Sánchez/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #92.BEY
Jed MacKay, Cody Ziglar & Zeb Wells/Writers
Luigi Zagaria, Bruno Oliveira, Fran Galán & Mark Bagley with Wayne Faucher/Artists
Espen Grundetjern, Carlos Lopez, Jim Campbell, Jim Charalampidis & Morry Hollowell/Color Artists
Mark Bagley & Brian Reber/Cover Art

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #93
Zeb Wells/Writer
Patrick Gleason/Artist
Brian Reber/Color Artist

"DAYS"
Sara Pichelli/Artist
Carlos Lopez/Color Artist

"WEEKS"
Mark Bagely & Tim Townsend/Artists
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YOU WEREN'T EVEN SIX AND LESS THAN FOUR BLOCKS FROM HOME WHEN SHE NOTICED.

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT GUM, PETER?

YOU'D TAKEN IT FROM MR. LUIZ'S BODEGA. HADN'T KNOWN WHAT YOU WERE DOING, EXACTLY.

BUT SOMETHING HAD TOLD YOU IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT EASY.

SHE MARCHED YOU BACK TO HIS STORE TO APOLOGIZE.

DIGGING THROUGH HER LITTLE COIN PURSE SO YOU COULD HAND MR. LUIZ THE NICKEL YOURSELF.

SHE WAS SO UPSET SHE DIDN'T EVEN SEE YOU LITTER.

LATER THAT NIGHT, UNCLE BEN ASKED TO SEE YOU.

TOOK A LOT FOR YOU TO HEAD DOWN THOSE STAIRS, KNOWING WHAT IT WAS ABOUT.

YOU KNOW, WE ALL GOTTA DECIDE WHO WE ARE WHEN NO ONE'S *WATCHING.*

WHEN THERE'S NO ONE AROUND TO SEE IF YOU DO THE RIGHT OR WRONG THING.

IT HELPS ME TO REMEMBER, AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE ALL HAVE TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR. AND THE GUY LOOKING BACK AT YOU?

THERE'S NO HIDING FROM *HIM.*

I WAKE UP IN A PANIC.

MIND GRASPING TO REMEMBER WHY.

THEN INSTANTLY WISH I COULD FORGET AGAIN.

PRETEND IT ISN'T REAL.

BUT IT *IS*.

HARRY'S DEAD.

AND I'M STILL ALIVE.

EVEN IF I DON'T LOOK LIKE IT.

JUST ASK CITIBANK. AND CHASE. AND CAPITAL ONE.

WHAT'S GOOD, MR. FLORES?

RANDY. IN THE HALL. CHECKING IN ON ME. WE'LL HANG OUT FOR A BIT, MAKE A FEW JOKES...

THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT HARRY.

AND RANDY WILL WONDER IF HE DIED QUICKLY, AND I'LL PRETEND I DON'T KNOW. AND THEN I'LL FEEL SICK.

BUT RANDY NEEDS ME.

RATTLE RATTLE

RATTLE RATTLE

I CAN DO THIS.

TOMORROW.

AFTER I HAVE TIME TO MYSELF.

THIS IS THE BEST SPOT FOR IT. THE ***GODDARD BUILDING*** STARTS A PERFECT CASCADE OF CATTY-CORNERED BUILDINGS, RISING ALL THE WAY TO 42ND.

NO ONE ELSE WOULD NOTICE, BUT FOR ME? IT'S NIRVANA.

NO THINKING. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ***SWING.***

NO MATTER HOW NOISY THE STREETS ARE...

...THERE'S NEVER ANY TRAFFIC UP HERE.

THWIP

EXCUSE ME...

WHO THE #$%&& IS THAT?

HEY, SPIDER-VERSE! WHAT GIVES?!

YOU GUYS SHOULD AT LEAST *CHECK IN,* YOU KNOW?

NO, BUD... YOU DON'T GET TO JUST RUN AWAY.

SHHHH.

SHHH?!

THWIP

THWIP

YOU DON'T SHHH SPIDER-MAN!

THWANG

THWANG

WEBS DON'T STICK TO YOUR SUIT...

THAT'S CUTE.

THIS WON'T BE.

THWIP

THWIP

HNNNGH!

SMASH

Spider-Man

BEEP

DEPLOY SPINNERET.

STAY.

GYAHH!

HEY! WHERE'D YOU GO?!

YOU WILL BE RELEASED IN ONE HOUR. PLEASE USE THIS TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR LIFE.

STAY?! YOU CONDESCENDING--

WHAT'S THIS?

PLEASE RELAX.

HELLO?

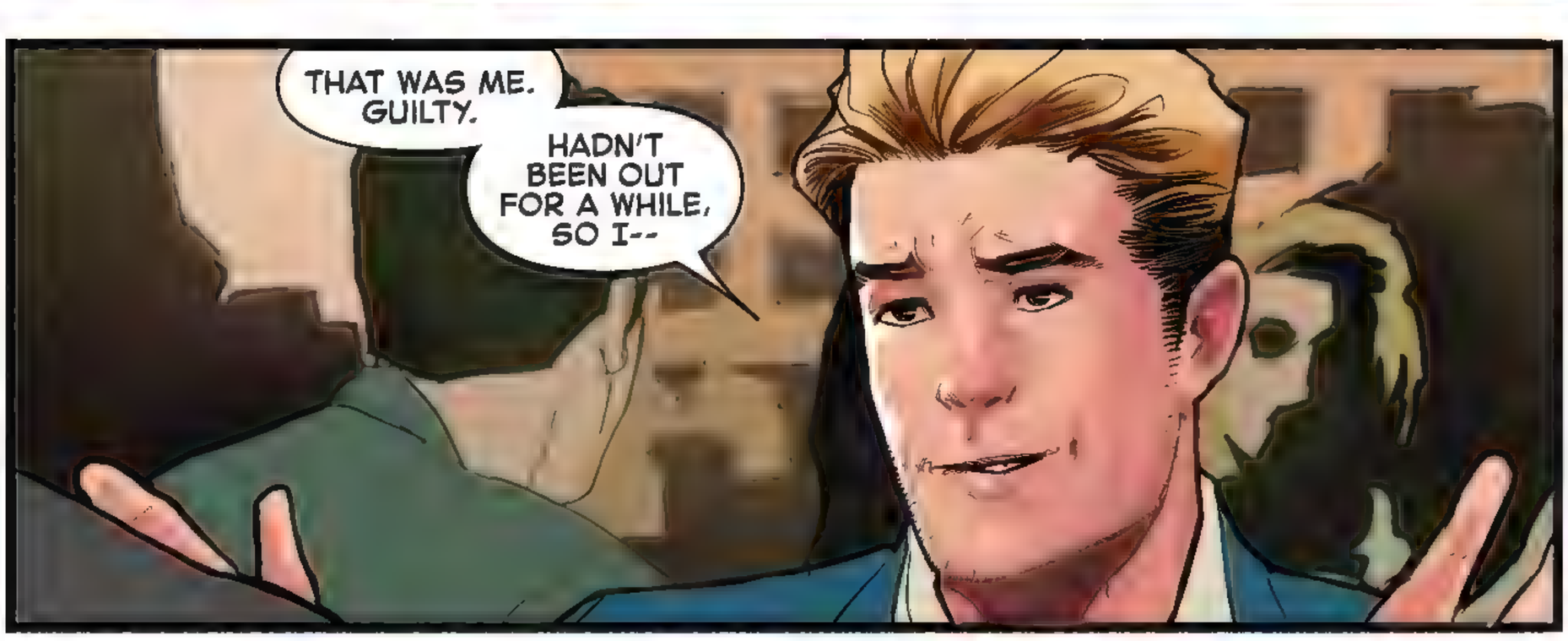
EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.
The Next Morning.
I GOT HELD UP! I'M SORRY!
COME ON, DERRICK, I NEED THIS--IF I'M OFF THE GROUP PROJECT, I CAN'T PASS.
THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE SHOWED UP ONE OF THE TWELVE TIMES YOU SAID YOU WOULD. WE HAD TO REPLACE YOU, DUDE.
ALSO, YOU LOOK LIKE HELL.
I WAS OUT MUCH LATER THAN I WANTED LAST NIGHT.
WE MIGHT BE ZEROING IN ON YOUR PROBLEM.
IT WASN'T FUN STUFF, KEL. I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH A LOT.
MAYBE YOU CAN GET AN EXTENSION. HAVE YOU HAD AN ACCIDENT, BEEN INJURED, TRAUMATIZED, OR LOST SOMEONE?
YES.
ALL OF THOSE.
IF THAT'S TRUE, TALK TO DR. CONNORS. MAYBE HE'LL GIVE YOU A PASS.
IF THAT'S TRUE.
HELLO, PETER.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

BEN?

YEAH. GOT A SEC?

SO, LAST NIGHT...


THAT WAS ME. GUILTY.
HADN'T BEEN OUT FOR A WHILE, SO I--

WENT TO THE GODDARD BUILDING TO BE ALONE.

HA. YOU TOO. RIGHT. GUESS I DIDN'T THINK *THAT* THROUGH.
ANYWAY, WHEN I SAW YOU, I HAD TO RUN. WAS WORRIED YOU'D START TALKING.
I WAS ON A FULLY STAFFED TEST RUN. THEY COULD HAVE BEEN LISTENING.

THEY.

IS THAT HOW I LOOK WHEN I'M ABOUT TO GIVE SOMEONE BAD NEWS?

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE *BEYOND CORPORATION?*

NO.

MAYBE?

I WAS A CRAP BUSINESSMAN.

THEY'RE A MULTINATIONAL CONGLOMERATE WHO'VE BEEN ON A SPENDING SPREE THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

MAKING ACQUISITIONS. SNATCHING UP PIECES OF ROXXON, BRAND...

...PARKER.

PARKER INDUSTRIES? THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO BUY.

*PETE SOLD IT ALL BACK IN **ASM #790**. --NL*

NOTHING TOO IMPORTANT, NO. NOTHING DANGEROUS...

JUST SOME OLD TRADEMARKS...

LIKE THE ONE FOR THE NAME AND LIKENESS OF SPIDER-MAN. DID YOU FORGET YOU FILED?

Uh-oh. --NL

OTTO.

OF COURSE OTTO TRADEMARKED THE NAME.

SEE, BEYOND WANTS TO GET INTO THE SUPER HERO GAME. DO IT ***RIGHT***. PUT SPIDER-MAN ON THEIR PAYROLL, NOW THAT THEY OWN--

THEY DON'T ***OWN*** ANYTHING. I NEVER--

DUDE, YOU DO NOT WANT TO DO THAT RIGHT NOW.

I WAS-- UH--NOT STEALING THIS.

LEAVE.

YEP.

I AM SPIDER-MAN.

YOU CAN'T BUY THAT. IT'S MY LIFE.

OUR LIFE.

I KNOW THAT'S NOT *CONVENIENT*, AND IT'S NOT WHAT YOU *WANT*, BUT IT'S *TRUE*.

BEN, I--I JUST THOUGHT AFTER YOUR LAST RESURRECTION, YOU'D TAKE IT EASY. GET SOME HELP--

I DID. BEYOND PUT ME BACK TOGETHER. *BELIEVED* IN ME.

BELIEVED THAT TOGETHER WE CAN DO A LOT OF GOOD WITH SPIDER-MAN.

BUT WHY DO THEY NEED--

I NEED. YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT. THIS IS WHAT *I* NEED.

MY MEMORIES MIGHT NOT BE REAL, BUT THEY'RE *REAL TO ME*. UNCLE BEN. THE GUILT OF HIS DEATH. POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY.

EVERYTHING THAT MAKES YOU PUT ON THAT COSTUME AND HELP PEOPLE...I HAVE THAT *TOO*.

COULD I ASK *YOU* TO SIT ON THE SIDELINES?

NO.

BUT THIS IS A LOT TO TAKE IN.

YOU'RE ASKING ME TO SHARE *SPIDER-MAN* WITH YOU.

ACTUALLY...

...AND THIS ISN'T FUN TO SAY, BUT I WANT TO BE HONEST...

...I'M NOT *ASKING.*

OH.

THEY MADE ME AN OFFER, AND I ACCEPTED IT.

IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

IT'S NOT SIMPLE *AT ALL.* THEY'VE INVESTED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN THIS.

THEY'RE GOING AHEAD WITH OR WITHOUT ME.

I CHOSE "WITH ME."

SORRY, PETER.

I GOT THIS. THEY'RE PAYING ME STUPID MONEY.

SEE YOU OUT THERE.

UGH.

LOWER EAST SIDE.
BEYOND TOWER.

"HE'S BACK."

"HIS MASK IS OFF."

"THAT'S FINE. LET HIM ENJOY IT."

ALL RIGHT, LANGSTON.

DO YOUR WORST.

VOICE VERIFIED.

HEAT SIGNATURE VERIFIED.

BODY SCENT VERIFIED.

MY FAVORITE.

ELECTROMAGNETIC AURA VERIFIED.

WELCOME, SPIDER-MAN.

SOMETHING SMELLS *FANTASTIC*...

LOOK AT ALL OF IT, BEN. SOMEONE CAME AND ***MADE*** IT FOR US. THEN THEY ***CLEANED*** THE WHOLE PLACE.

JANINE? ARE YOU OKAY?

IT'S JUST A LOT DIFFERENT FROM WHERE I WAS.

SO DIFFERENT.

AND THAT MAKES ME ***SO***, ***SO*** HAPPY.

WELL, GET USED TO IT. YOU'RE SAFE HERE.

EVERYTHING'S GONNA WORK OUT.

YOU TALKED TO HIM, THEN?

YEP. HE TOOK IT AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED. I THINK--

AH, AH, AH...

LET'S KEEP THE DETAILS TO YOURSELF. THE LESS *BEYOND* KNOWS, THE BETTER.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE NO LEGAL WAY OF CONTACTING ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY HAVE GONE BY "SPIDER-MAN" IN THE PAST.

OH, I DIDN'T--

DO YOU HAVE A KEY?

ONLY FOR EMERGENCIES.

I NEED THE BIG GUY.

THE BOB LOOKS FANTASTIC, BY THE WAY.

TIME FOR THERAPY?

NO, CHALMERS NEEDS YOU IN R&D. SOME HAIRY INTEL RUMBLING IN FROM THE FIELD. WE WANNA BUFF YOUR RADIATION SHIELDING BEFORE YOU GO OUT TONIGHT.

YOU HEARD MARCUS. TIME TO WORK.

WISH ME LUCK?

GOOD LUCK, BEN REILLY.

HOW YOU HOLDIN' UP, TIGER?

NOT GREAT. THERE'S... A LOT GOING ON.

I KNOW. COME HERE.

IT HURTS BECAUSE WE ALL LOVED HARRY *SO MUCH.*

SO THE HURT ISN'T A BAD THING... IT JUST *HURTS.*

YEAH, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. WHAT'S GOING ON?

BEN REILLY CAME TO SEE ME TODAY.

BEN REILLY?

MJ? YOU OKAY?

I DON'T KNOW. WHENEVER HE'S AROUND...*THINGS HAPPEN.*

NONE OF THEM GOOD.

IT'S FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT--

ZZT ZZT

ONE SEC.

K

Kel

Kel: Looks like you may have a good excuse after all.

Explosion at Empire State University

Unless this was you?

SOMETHING'S UP AT EMPIRE STATE.

AND *YOU* HAVE TO CHECK IT OUT.

THEY MIGHT NEED HELP.

PETER... AT SOME POINT, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO STOP FOR ***FIVE MINUTES*** AND PROCESS EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED.

YOU ***KNOW*** THAT, RIGHT?

I GUESS.

BUT NOT TODAY.

SEE YOU SOON.

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.

LOOK HARDER, #$%&%HEADS!

KA-BOOM

I'M *TELLING* YOU IT'S NOT *HERE.*

YOU GOT BAD INFORMATION.

YOU GOT *BAD EYES*, X-RAY! GET BACK IN THERE!

THE U-FOES!

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME...

I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL HERE. WE SUPER HEROES HAVE BEEN TALKING AND DECIDED *SOMEONE* HAD TO TELL YOU: YOU GUYS SMELL.

LIKE, THERE'S A *DISTINCT* ODOR. AND IT'S NOT GOOD.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE ONE OF YOU IS MADE OF *NOXIOUS GAS.*

THAT WASN'T FUNNY THE FIRST TIME WE HEARD IT.

FIRST TIME?

HNNNNNGH!

YOU'RE SENSITIVE ABOUT YOUR BODY ODOR. *GOT IT.*

OH, HEY.
PRO TIP: THESE GUYS *DO NOT* THINK WE'RE FUNNY.
HOW'D YOU GET HERE SO FAST?
I HAVE A TEAM. THEY MONITOR THE CITY. TELL ME WHERE TO GO.
IT'S AWESOME.
#$%& THIS. WE'RE OVER TIME. LET'S GO.
NOW?
YOU WANT TO GET *PAID*, DON'T YOU?
SORRY IF WE DIDN'T EXPLAIN HOW THIS WORKS, BUT... *NO.*
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
SO THAT'S A "NO" ON SURRENDERING?
NOW *THAT'S* HILARIOUS.
IRONCLAD. BE CRUEL.
I'M SHOCKED-- YOU ALL SEEM SO COOL.

HEY, LOOK ALIVE!

Blood Moon

WHOA!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

THE KINETIC-SENSITIVE FOAM IN MY COSTUME LOCKS UNDER IMPACT. PRETTY NEAT, *HUH?*

IT'S OKAY.

YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT IT?

NO!

THEN GET UP!

OKAY, I LIKE JOKING AROUND AS MUCH AS THE NEXT GUY--

UNLESS THE NEXT GUY IS *ME.*

...

SURE. WHAT I'M SAYING IS IT'S TIME TO GET *SERIOUS.* HIT THESE GUYS HARD, FAST, AND *TOGETHER.*

LOVE IT.

I GO *FIRST.* *THEN* YOU.

DON'T YOU TALK DOWN TO--

LOOK OUT, IDIOTS!

GYAAAHH!

YOU ALL REALLY NEED TO WATCH HOW YOU TALK TO EACH OTHER.

KRAK

THNK

IT'S TOXIC.

IT'S TIME! FINISH THIS!

YOU HEARD HIM.

CAFF

WHAT IS THAT?

HAHA! YOU'RE GONNA *LOVE* THIS!

SHZZZZ!

#$%&. SUIT SAYS THIS GAS IS RADIO-VOLATILE.

THAT MEANS--

I KNOW WHAT IT--

KA-BOOM

DID YOU SEE THAT #$%&! HA HA--

GURK.

DID YOU SEE MY LEAD-LINED GLOVES, X-RAY?

NOT TO MENTION MY RADIATION-SHIELDING AND AIR-SCRUBBING MICRO-MESH.

Y-YEAH. THOSE WOULD HAVE BEEN... PRETTY COOL.

OH NO.

BLLEARRGH!

I THINK WE MADE OUR POINT.

THAT'S IT. WE'RE GONE.

MOVE!

PETER, I DIDN'T THINK--

YOURS IS JUST A NORMAL SUIT...

S-SPIDEY-SENSE W-WARNED ME...

BUT *INSIDE*...

THE DANGER'S INSIDE...

HOLD ON.

BUDDY?! TALK TO ME!

HOLD ON, OKAY?!

HOLD ON!

BEYOND CORPORATION #76

RING RING

HELLO?

UH, HI. MAY? THIS IS...

THIS IS PETER'S...

UM, THIS IS PETER.

I'M IN THE EMERGENCY WARD OF McCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER.

BUT--

I'M HURT, OKAY? COME QUICK--

HELLO?

HELLO?!

CLICK

THAT WASN'T PETER.

AUNT MAY
CALL ENDED

BUDDY!

HEY!
BUDDY!

WHAT THE HELL DID YOUR BROTHER GET INTO?

THIS LOOKS LIKE TOXICOSIS OR SOME KIND OF RADIATION POISONING.

MAYBE BOTH.

I-IONIZING RADIATION, YEAH. THAT'S WHAT MY HUD SAID.

A-AND AMATOXIN, MAYBE? I DON'T KNOW. I HAD TO TURN IT OFF--

I HAD TO TURN IT OFF TO BRING HIM HERE.

DID YOU GUYS *TAKE* SOMETHING? WHAT ARE YOU *ON?*

WHERE IS HE?!

I'M LOOKING FOR PETER PARKER.

ONE MOMENT.

PETER'S IN NO SHAPE TO SEE *ANYONE*, MA'AM.

THAT'S NOT *POSSIBLE*.

DON'T TELL ME THAT--HE *JUST CALLED* ME!

MAYBE YOU TALKED TO HIS BROTHER?

WHAT *BROTHER?!*

HE'S CONVULSING!

I'M COMING!

NONE OF THESE VITALS MAKE SENSE!

PETER, CAN YOU HEAR ME? DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?!

DANGER.

G-GOTTA GO. MOVE.

DANGER!

BUT WHERE--

INSIDE MY BODY...

MY BODY IS THE DANGER. SOMETHING INSIDE--

--TRYING TO KILL ME

BEYOND TOWER.

HE'S COMING BACK?

HIS *UNIFORM* IS. I'M ONLY *ASSUMING* HE'S IN IT.

I HOPE YOU'LL HELP US IMPRESS UPON HIM THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING IN CONTACT.

OH. I--

OKAY.

UH-OH...

MY PARENTS WAITED UP FOR ME. I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE SNUCK IN THROUGH THE WINDOW.

IMPOSSIBLE. LANGSTON MONITORS ALL POINTS OF ENTRY.

NOTED, BUDDY.

THIS ISN'T *FUNNY*, BEN...

YOU TOOK THE COSTUME OFF AND DIDN'T SAY A WORD TO US.

I HAD TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING. THE *OTHER GUY* HAD A PROBLEM. HARD TO GO INTO WHILE PROTECTING HIS IDENTITY--BUT IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.

LET'S LOOK FORWARD. HOWEVER IT HAPPENED, THE U-FOES ESCAPED. AND YOU NEED TO STOP THEM--

--*AFTER* YOUR CONTRACTUAL REST PERIOD, OF COURSE.

OH. I NEED TO CHECK ON SOME LOOSE ENDS. CAN IT WAIT?

IT CAN'T, ACTUALLY. THE LONGER THE U-FOES ARE AT LARGE, THE WORSE YOU LOOK FOR LETTING THEM GO. THAT HURTS US *ALL*.

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

I'M FINE.

I'LL SCHEDULE YOU AN EXTRA SESSION WITH DR. KAFKA REGARDLESS. WE CAN SNEAK IT IN BEFORE YOU GO OUT TONIGHT.

GET SOME REST!

I DON'T KNOW IF I LIKE HIM.

JANINE, I...

BEN?

IT'S OKAY, BABY.

WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S PETER...

"...HE'S IN REAL BAD SHAPE."

PETER?!

OH GOD...

WHAT *HAPPENED* TO HIM?! THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT *RADIATION*?!

HE'S RESTING, MAY. PLEASE--

LADIES... LADIES...

ONE AT A TIME...

...I'M NOT A PIECE OF MEAT.

YOU'RE AWAKE?!

OH, PETER, WHAT *HAPPENED*?!

OH...SOME VILLAINS--THE U-FOES, I THINK--ATTACKED EMPIRE STATE.

AND I WAS--I...

WAS MEETING WITH PROFESSOR CONNORS ABOUT GETTING HIS GRADES UP. IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.

HE WAS EXPOSED TO--WELL, DR. BURDICK ISN'T SURE WHAT.

HMPH. "NOT SURE WHAT" ISN'T GOING TO ***CUT IT.*** WHERE IS THIS "DR. BURDICK"?

I'D LIKE A WORD.

OH... HE'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR.

BUT HE REALLY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE TYPE WHO LIKES ANSWERING QUESTIONS.

THEN HE'S ***VERY MUCH*** NOT GOING TO LIKE HIS ***LIFE*** FOR THE ***FORESEEABLE FUTURE.*** NOT UNTIL I'M SATISFIED PETER IS GETTING THE TREATMENT HE ***NEEDS.***

YOU! YES, YOU!

DR. BURDICK. ***NOW.***

YOU'LL HAVE LEAD CHAFF FOR *X-RAY* AND VACUUM BEARINGS FOR *VAPOR*.

THE SUIT'S KINETIC-SENSITIVE FABRIC SHOULD LET YOU DEAL WITH *IRONCLAD* AND *VECTOR* THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.

GET AFTER VAPOR FIRST. SHE'S THE MOST DANGEROUS. THEN X-RAY--

BEN! ARE YOU LISTENING?

YEAH. SORRY, COLLEEN. IT'S JUST WEIRD FINISHING THIS UP WITHOUT SPIDER-MAN.

THE *OTHER* ONE.

ENOUGH OF THAT TALK.

THERE IS NO "OTHER" SPIDER-MAN. NOT AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED.

EASY, MARCUS.

HAVE SOME RESPECT.

THIS ISN'T RIGHT.

GIVE ME AN HOUR.

AN HOUR?! THIS IS MISSION LAUNCH... YOU CAN'T *LEAVE.*

ONE HOUR!

THAT WAS... *UNEXPECTED.*

AS I TOLD YOUR AUNT-- BETWEEN ***STUNNING PERSONAL*** ATTACKS-- WE'RE STILL RUNNING TESTS... BUT YOU'RE CONSCIOUS. THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.

IT MEANS YOUR ORGANS ARE WORKING. PUTTING UP A FIGHT. WHEN THE TESTS COME BACK, WE'LL HOPEFULLY BE ABLE TO GIVE THEM SOME HELP.

BUT WHAT CAN WE DO ***NOW?***

HE'S ***DOING*** IT. I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW, BUT HE'S ***STABLE***. HE MUST BE ***HALF-OX***.

CLOSE...

I'LL BE BACK. THE RADIOLOGIST WAS HOLDING UP YOUR RESULTS, SO I SENT YOUR AUNT IN HIS DIRECTION.

BETTER MAKE SURE HE'S STILL ALIVE.

HA.

...

PETER.

OH, DON'T DO ***THAT***. IT DOESN'T SOUND ***THAT BAD***.

KNOCK KNOCK

HEY...

...GOT A SECOND?

YOU.

MJ...

WHAT DID YOU ***DO*** TO HIM?!

THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND. I'M SO SORRY.

IS HE GONNA BE OKAY?

MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE STUCK AROUND TO FIND OUT AFTER YOU DROPPED HIM ON THE *CURB.*

BEN, IF YOU'RE GONNA TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS, LET'S GET THOSE LIPS MOVING.

IF SHE STARTS SWINGING, I'M IN NO SHAPE TO STOP HER.

OKAY. RIGHT. LOOK...

IF I COULD TAKE YOUR PLACE, I *WOULD.* BUT I'M STILL ON MY FEET. AND--

--AND IT'S THE *SPIDER-MAN* THING. I STILL WANT TO DO IT. I THINK IT'S EVEN *MORE* IMPORTANT NOW THAT YOU'RE...

YOU KNOW.

BUT I'VE DECIDED I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOUR *BLESSING.*

YOU WANT MY PERMISSION? I THOUGHT YOU "WEREN'T ASKING."

I DIDN'T HANDLE THAT RIGHT.

I'M NOT USED TO GETTING THE THINGS I NEED. I DON'T EXPECT PEOPLE TO ***HELP*** ME. SO I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ASK.

THAT'S WHAT MY ***THERAPIST*** SAYS, AT LEAST.

ANYWAY...

...THIS IS ME ***ASKING.***

IT'S HARD WHEN YOU'RE AROUND, BEN. IT ***REALLY*** IS. IT FEELS LIKE I'M BEING ASKED TO SHARE MY ***LIFE.***

AND I DON'T KNOW THAT THERE'S ENOUGH OF THAT TO GO AROUND IN THE ***FIRST*** PLACE.

AND THAT MAKES IT REAL EASY TO IGNORE THAT THIS IS ALL EVEN HARDER FOR ***YOU.***

BECAUSE YOU ***DESERVE*** TO BE WHO YOU ARE.

YOU ***DESERVE*** TO DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY.

AND YOU ***DESERVE*** TO BE ***SPIDER-MAN.***

THANK YOU, PETER.

YOU GET BETTER, OKAY?

I'LL BE OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME. DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE ON YOUR OWN.

AND LAST THING, BEN...

YEAH?

BE *AMAZING.*

I'D BE MAD AT YOU RIGHT NOW IF YOU WEREN'T *THE SWEETEST MAN ALIVE.*

PETER?

JUST WAITING FOR BEN TO GET OUT OF EAR-SHOT.

"WHY?"

BECAUSE I CAN'T FEEL MY BODY.

"HELP!

"SOMEBODY HELP!"

HE'S SEIZING UP!

"WE'RE LOSING HIM!"

GET HIS MOUTH OPEN!

TIGER?!

"HANG IN THERE, TIGER!"

STAY WITH US, BUDDY!

I CAN'T...

MY BODY IS THE DANGER...

...IT'S TRYING TO SHUT DOWN.

GET HIS MOUTH OPEN!

PETER!

CAN'T LET IT

HE'S SLIPPING INTO A COMA.

GOTTA ESCAPE.

GOTTA GO. AWAY.

"WE'VE GOT HEAT SIGS ON ALL FOUR. AUDIO UP.

--SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

"YOU'RE CLEAR TO MOVE ON THEM AT YOUR DISCRETION."

HERE?! WE SHOULDN'T BE IN THE *COUNTRY*. SOMETHING'S WRONG.

THEN TURN INVISIBLE AND *PISS OFF*, X-RAY. IM TIRED OF LOOKING AT YOU--

SHHH!

HEAR THAT?

CRASH

VACUUM BEARINGS DEPLOYED.

THNK THNK THNK THNK

AIEEEE!

SUCTION GOOD.

VAPOR!

BROUGHT SOMETHING FOR YOU TOO, X-RAY.

HOPE YOU LIKE LEAD CHAFF.

LEAD CHAFF DEPLOYED.

GYARRGHH!

GOOD HIT. RADIOACTIVE BOGEY DOWN.

DIE!

SHHZZARKK!

SHORK!

GARK!

WATCH IT, BEN!

I'M GOOD.

S-SPIDER-MAN?

HELL YES, SPIDER-MAN.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2021:
SPIDER-MAN/VENOM

BEYOND CORPORATION

THREE
MONTHS
EARLIER

DALLAS, TEXAS.

I FRISKED HIM...

I *SWEAR* I FRISKED HIM.

HE WAS *CLEAN.*

BARRY, COME ON, MAN. *LOOK* AT HIM.

THAT'S BUSHWACKER.

HE DIDN'T SMUGGLE THAT GUN IN HIS *PANTS*...

EVERYONE STAY CALM. I'M HERE ON *BUSINESS.*

CAN'T PROMISE YOU WON'T GET HURT IF YOU DO WHAT I SAY, 'CAUSE YOU GETTIN' HURT IS THE JOB.

THE OIL BUSINESS IS *ROUGH.* YOU KNEW THE RISKS.

CRASH!

WHAT'S THAT SAYING ABOUT TEXAS?

"EVERYTHING IS BIGGER AND *WHOA* THAT DUDE HAS GUNS FOR HANDS!"

NEW COSTUME.

HOW DO ALL YOU JERKS HAVE TIME TO *SEW?*

I RECOMMEND BUYING A PLANNER.

AND *USING* IT.

FUNNY.

I'M GONNA SHOOT THESE PEOPLE NOW.

CLICK

OH GOD!

HEY, WAIT! *HOLD UP!*

STOP!

BLAM

THAT WAS *PRECIOUS.*

AND NOW YOU'RE *DEAD.*

MAYBE NOT.

THIS SUIT IS MADE OF IMPACT-THICKENING, FOAM-BASED POLYMERS.

AND THEY ACTUALLY *WORKED.*

GOOD FOR YOU.

REAL, *REAL* BAD FOR *YOU.*

WE'LL SEE.

TCH CLK GCH

THOSE GUNS EVER RUN OUT OF BULLETS?

THOSE POLYMERS WORK AT CLOSE RANGE?

OF COURSE THEY DO!

I THINK.

THUNK

BLAM

YEAH, SEE?! THEY *TOTALLY* DO!

OH, DUDE... YOUR ARMS.

I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE... *THAT.*

C-CAN WE *GO?*

YEAH. I THINK? I'M ACTUALLY NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

HELLO? I'M *SERIOUS.* I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

COPY, SPIDER-MAN. I'M ALERTING YOUR SUPPORT TEAM.

THEY'LL COORDINATE WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO HAVE THE PERPETRATOR TREATED AND BOOKED.

THEY'RE ARRANGING COUNSELING FOR THE VICTIMS AND HIRING A CONTRACTOR TO PATCH THE WALLS AND REPLACE THE WINDOW.

OH. COOL.

WE'LL SEE YOU BACK AT BASE.

YOU GUYS DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN.

I KNEW YOU'D COME TO YOUR SENSES AFTER A *TEST-DRIVE.*

OKAY, YEAH. IT FELT *GREAT* TO HAVE A TEAM BEHIND ME. FINDING THE CRIME, WORKING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, MAKING SURE IT'S DONE RIGHT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY. *I'M IN.*

THAT'S EXCELLENT NEWS, MR. REILLY.

CALL ME BEN.

OF COURSE.

GET RID OF THIS.

YOU DON'T WANT TO KEEP MY SCARLET SPIDER COSTUME? AS *REFERENCE?*

ABSOLUTELY NOT. ONE, BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO STOP DRESSING LIKE A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD WITH TOO MUCH BIRTHDAY MONEY.

AND TWO, BECAUSE WE LIKE *THIS* DESIGN.

AND WE WANT *YOU* IN IT.

WON'T PEOPLE CONFUSE ME WITH THE REAL SPIDER-MAN?

BEN, AS FAR AS THE *BEYOND CORPORATION* IS CONCERNED, FROM THIS DAY FORWARD...

...YOU *ARE* THE REAL SPIDER-MAN.

BEDFORD FALLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

JANINE

WHAT'S GOOD, JANINE?

NOT YOU, KELLY.

HA! YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'RE RIGHT.

HERE. TH-THIS IS YOURS.

THANK YOU KINDLY, SARAH.

HOW'S THE SLOP TODAY?

EXCUSE ME...

ELIZABETH TYNE?

CALL ME JANINE.

I'LL CALL YOU WHATEVER I *WANT*, YOU STUPID--

HEY, HEY!

PUT IT AWAY, JOHNSON. THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.

SHE'S NEW, JANINE. SORRY.

BUT I GOTTA GET YOU UP. YOU HAVE VISITORS.

NO PROBLEM.

THAT'S ALL YOU HAD TO SAY.

DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO THEY ARE?

PROBABLY ANOTHER IDIOT WITH A PODCAST. THE *LAST* ONE TRIED TO PIN ALL OF KAINE'S MURDERS ON ME.

DON'T THINK *THESE* GUYS HAVE A PODCAST.

AREN'T YOU GONNA CUFF ME?

THEY WOULDN'T HEAR OF IT.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE, BUT THEY HAVE A LOT OF POWER.

THAT'S TROUBLESOME.

I DON'T HAVE *FRIENDS.*

ELIZABETH TYNE, A.K.A. SARAH PORTER, A.K.A. JANINE GODBE.

USE THE LAST ONE.

SURE. MURDER ONE, RESISTING ARREST, ESCAPE IN THE FIRST DEGREE... EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN *ASSURED* THAT LAST ONE WASN'T YOUR IDEA.

ASSURED BY *WHO?*

I REALLY CAN'T SAY.

MS. GODBE, I WORK FOR THE *BEYOND CORPORATION.*

YOU MAKE CHOCO-LITTLE SNACK CAKES, RIGHT?

...YES. WE ALSO HAVE PRIVATE CONTRACTS WITH MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WE REHABILITATE OFFENDERS WITH EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES AND THOSE ADJACENT TO SAID OFFENDERS.

YOUR EXPERIENCE IN SAID MATTERS QUALIFIES YOU FOR A PLACE IN OUR *MINIMUM* SECURITY FACILITY.

WE THINK YOU'D BE QUITE HAPPY THERE WHILE HELPING US ASSIST OTHERS IN YOUR SITUATION.

WHAT MAKES ME SO SPECIAL?

YOUR EXPERIENCE.

IN SAID MATTERS.

NO THANKS.

FIND ANOTHER GUINEA PIG.

MS. GODBE, I'D BE REMISS NOT TO MENTION THE LUXURIOUS STATE OF OUR FACILITIES.

WE'VE TAKEN GREAT PAINS--MOVED HEAVEN AND EARTH-- TO ASSURE YOU'LL BE LIVING...

...THE LIFE OF RILEY.

CA-CLANK

TH-THAT'S *IT*? I CAN JUST LEAVE?

UNDER OUR SUPERVISION.

I-IS THAT MY RIDE?

THAT'S OURS.

YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED AN *ESCORT*.

HELLO, JANINE.

IT'S ME.

IT'S--

I KNOW, BEN.

I KNOW.

MARCUS?

TAKE HER HOME, SPIDER-MAN.

YOU HEAR THAT, JANINE?

WE'RE GOING *HOME.*

HOPE THIS WAS WORTH IT.

OF COURSE IT WAS.

YOU CAN'T PUT A PRICE ON *JOB LOYALTY.*

RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.

Two Weeks Ago.

FRANCINE!

KAFKA

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? DON'T... PLEASE...

WHAAAT'sSsS THEEE POOOINNTTT OF LIIIIVIIIIING

THAT'S A WOMAN'S VOICE.

FRANCINE FRYE. DILLON'S EX. THE MACHINE'S WORKING.

THIS PROVES HIS BIO-ELECTRICITY TRANSMITS NEUROLOGICAL SIGNALS.

MEMORIES.

IIIIIFFFF YYOOOOOUUUU DOOOONN'TTTT LIIIIVEE DAAANGGERRROOUSSLLYYY.

NO! DON'T--

AARRRGHHHHH!

HE'S RELIVING THE MOMENT SHE DIED!

THE SYSTEM'S OVERLOADED! CUT THE--

...EXPLOSION IS A DRAMATIC WAY TO PUT IT. I PREFER TO CALL IT A *SETBACK*.

FINE, IT WAS AN EXPLOSION. I DON'T WANT TO GET HUNG UP ON THAT. THE IMPORTANT PART IS GETTING THE EQUIPMENT REPAIRED.

IF I DESCRIBE MY WORK TO THE BOARD I'M SURE THEY'LL RELEASE THE FUNDS.

OKAY, BUT I'M JUST GOING TO CALL BACK TOMORROW.

MONEY TROUBLE?

YES. I CAN'T EVEN AFFORD AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO KEEP PEOPLE OUT OF MY OFFICE.

WHO ARE YOU?

CLICK

MARCUS MOMPLAISIR.

FAN OF YOUR WORK WITH ELECTRO. *MAX DILLON*, SORRY.

OR A *CLONE* OF MAX DILLON?

A HUMAN BEING WITH TRAUMATIC MEMORIES THAT MAY OR MAY NOT CONTRIBUTE TO ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR.

WE DON'T JUDGE WHERE THE MEMORIES CAME FROM. AND WE DON'T CALL OUR PATIENTS "CLONES."

IS THAT THE STANCE OF THE INSTITUTE OR A PERSONAL CONVICTION, DR. KAFKA?

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

YET.

I REPRESENT THE *BEYOND CORPORATION*, AND WE'D LIKE TO FUND THE ADVANCEMENT OF YOUR *WORK*.

...ACTUALLY, THAT'S A SIMPLISTIC WAY TO PUT IT. WE'RE A FEW STEPS *AHEAD* OF YOU ON THIS ALREADY.

BUT WE *WOULD* LIKE YOUR EXPERTISE IN THE REHABILITATION OF A SPECIFIC SUBJECT.

I'M IN.

THAT'S IT?

YOU MUST FIND THE SUBJECT *VERY* INTERESTING.

MR. MOMPLAISIR, YOU HAVE NO *IDEA*.

BEN REILLY

TWO WEEKS AGO.

LOVE AND MONSTERS

...MISTY, YOU ACTUALLY *SAID* THIS TO HIM?

RARRRGGH!

NO, COLLEEN, I'M SAYING THAT'S WHAT I *SHOULD* HAVE SAID.

GRAAAHHH!

WHOOOMB

SLICE

OH. THANK GOD.

GRRRRARGG--

WAIT. IS THAT "THANK GOD" DIRECTED AT *ME* OR THE SEA MONSTER YOU'RE FIGHTING?

WOM WOM

YOU KNOW IT'S YOU.

WHAT?!

SWIPE

GURGGGLE

OH, C'MON. IT WAS A *LITTLE* HARSH, DON'T YOU THINK?

SLICE

GAK!

NO, I DO *NOT* THINK.

WHOOOMB

SO...YOU THINK THAT YOU ARE *NEVER* TOO TOUGH ON PEOPLE? NEVER HAVE STANDARDS JUST *SLIGHTLY* TOO HIGH? NEVER MADE THE MISTAKE OF CUTTING PEOPLE OUT OF YOUR LIFE TOO FAST?

THAT'S NOT...THAT'S NOT THE POINT.

I'M JUST *SAYING*. HE SEEMED NICE. MAYBE HE DESERVED A SECOND CHANCE BEFORE HE GOT TOSSED ON THE PILE OF EXES.

MAYBE I'M MORE COMFORTABLE WITH PILES.

I HEARD THAT.

WHOOOOMB

I KNOW.

MAYBE I WANTED YOU TO.

THIS SOUNDS LIKE A POSITIVE PERSONAL REVELATION. WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT IT OVER PILES OF FOOD. BUT FIRST...

...ONE OF YOURS IS GETTING AWAY.

GRRRRR.

WHY IS HE ONE OF *MINE?*

HE'S ON *YOUR* SIDE.

PFFT.

MMM. TOO RISKY. HE MOVES UNEXPECTEDLY, I HIT A CIVILIAN, AND THIS BECOMES A WHOLE *DIFFERENT* KIND OF NIGHT.

NYC WASTE CO

HAVE TO DO THIS THE *OLD-FASHIONED* WAY.

GEAR

BOOM

I LOVE THAT YOU CALLED *THAT* THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.

ISN'T IT?

I GUESS. BUT YOU USED AN ANTARCTIC VIBRANIUM BIONIC ARM TO DO IT. IT'S LITERALLY CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY.

CAN I DO *NOTHING* TO PLEASE YOU TODAY, COLLEEN WING?!

UM. I SAID I *LOVE* IT.

OH, RIGHT.

HEY, LADIES. NICE JOB.

THAT'S ALL OF THEM, BY THE WAY. UNLESS THEY PICKED A NEW MANHOLE--

BEN?

IS... IS THAT YOU?

HEY, MISTY. COLLEEN. THAT WAS SOME MIGHTY FINE SUPER HERO WORK... ANY CHANCE YOU'RE *FOR HIRE?*

IF YOU WANT TO HELP CLEAN UP THIS MESS--*LITERALLY THE WORST PART OF THE JOB, WHICH NOBODY TALKS ABOUT*-- AND YOU KNOCK OFF THE PUNS, SURE.

...I'LL BE HONEST--THE PUN THING IS GONNA BE TOUGH.

#77 BEYOND CORPORATION

NOW

WHOOSH

I'M NOW WONDERING WHY I THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA.

WHOOSH

SLAM

HNNNNG!

HUBRIS IT WAS HUBRIS

THUNK THUNK THUNK THUNK THUNK

AND NOW I'M BEING PUNISHED

WHICH... TRACKS

BEYOND TRAINING FACILITY.

MANHATTAN.

YIPES!

HE'S LIKE ONE OF THOSE JUMPING BEANS.

BLAM

BLAM

THWP

ONE OF THOSE JUMPING *SPIDERS* MORE LIKE.

NO, THOSE AREN'T THIS *ANNOYING.*

I'M ANNOYING? YOU GUYS ARE *SHOOTING LIVE ROUNDS AT ME!*

I HAVE NO ROUNDS.

FINE. *SOME* OF YOU ARE FIRING LIVE ROUNDS AT ME, AND *SOME* OF YOU ARE SWINGING DEADLY BLADES AT ME.

BLAM

WHY *ELSE* ARE WE HERE, BEN?

SQUICK

UNLIKE YOU, WE *HAVE* NO EXPECTATIONS.

UM. I APOLOGIZE? PLEASE STOP TRYING TO KILL ME?

WELL, YOU JUST RUINED MY FAVORITE GUN WITH YOUR GROSS WEBBING SO I SUGGEST YOU MOVE EVEN FASTER.

SURE. BUT YOU CAN HARDLY EXPECT ME TO STAND STILL.

THAT'S FAIR.

HE'S MOVING WELL TODAY, MARCUS.

I DON'T KNOW--I THINK THEY MIGHT HAVE HIS NUMBER.

WASN'T THAT THE *IDEA?* GIVE HIM A CHALLENGE.

IT WAS. BUT HE SEEMS DISTRACTED TO ME.

PERHAPS IT'S THE INCESSANT "JOKES."

NO, I'D SAY THAT'S ABOUT TYPICAL.

WELL, SHUT IT DOWN.

ALL RIGHT, GUYS, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.

THANK GOD.

LADIES. GENTLEMAN.

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT BEN NEEDS TO BE OFF TO HIS NEXT APPOINTMENT, AND YOU TWO NEED TO HEAD OVER TO TECH AND TRAINING.

WHY'S THAT?

WE NEED YOU OUTFITTED WITH BEYOND TECH BEFORE WE CAN APPROVE YOU FOR THE FIELD. SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG.

...SURE.

MAXINE DANGER,
HEAD OF SUPER HERO DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BEYOND CORPORATION.

THANKS, GUYS.

YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE SO EASILY *TOMORROW*, BEN REILLY.

THAT'S... OMINOUS.

COLLEEN ALWAYS GETS HER MAN.

THAT'S SOMEHOW *MORE* OMINOUS.

WALK WITH ME, BEN.

YOU ARE SLOW ON YOUR RIGHT, BENJAMIN.

UH. OKAY.

Y'KNOW, I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME--I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH KAFKA...

KAFKA CAN WAIT.

OOOOKAY, THEN.

I WON'T BORE YOU WITH HOW MUCH WE'VE *INVESTED* IN YOU BEN.

I KNOW, I--

THIS WILL GO MORE SMOOTHLY IF YOU DON'T INTERRUPT ME.

...SORRY.

HOW DO THOSE FEEL?

EH. BETTER THAN THE LAST ONES.

I SAY WE'VE INVESTED A LOT, NOT TO MAKE YOU FEEL GUILTY OR BEHOLDEN, BUT JUST TO REITERATE HOW MUCH WE *BELIEVE* IN YOU. YOU HAVE A RARE CHANCE--WITH YOUR POWER AND BEYOND'S RESOURCES--TO MAKE A REAL *DIFFERENCE* OUT THERE.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING WE TAKE LIGHTLY.

AND IT'S NOT SOMETHING I THOUGHT *YOU* TOOK LIGHTLY EITHER.

I *DON'T*. I TAKE IT... WHATEVER THE OPPOSITE OF LIGHTLY IS... "HARD" SEEMS WRONG. I TAKE IT HARD? YEAH, THAT'S NOT RIGHT...

THIS IS NOT GOING WELL.

I THINK THE WORD YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS "SERIOUSLY."

UH. YEAH. THAT *IS* THE WORD. I TAKE IT *VERY* SERIOUSLY.

UH? HELP?

I KNOW, BUT THERE WAS AN EMERGENCY AND I--

IT'S HAPPENED ***TWICE*** IN THE SPAN OF ONLY A FEW DAYS, BEN.

YEAH, I KNOW THAT LOOKS BAD. BUT--

AHHH!

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

BECAUSE, ***BEN***... I CAN'T HAVE YOU TAKING OFF YOUR SUIT AND TURNING OFF YOUR COMMS WHENEVER IT STRIKES YOUR FANCY.

STOP. I HAVE NO TOLERANCE FOR EXCUSES. ***KILLER DROP BEARS*** ATE MY HOMEWORK, ***BROCCOLI MEN*** CAUSED TRAFFIC ON THE FDR, THE BAND ***THUNDER THIGHS*** DESTROYED MY APARTMENT... I'VE HEARD IT ***ALL***, BEN.

SANDWICH DEPARTMEN

I'M NOT TRYING TO GIVE YOU A ***HARD TIME***. I'M TRYING TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE ***REALLY*** MY GUY. IF YOU'RE ***NOT*** MY GUY, I NEED TO KNOW ***NOW*** SO WE CAN CUT OUR LOSSES AND MOVE ON.

EXCUSE ME?

NOT EVERYONE CAN DO THIS, BEN. ***I*** KNOW YOU CAN... BUT I NEED ***YOU*** TO KNOW IT.

OHMIGODWHATHAVEWEDONE?

YOU HAVE TO MAKE THAT DECISION ON YOUR OWN...

DO YOU WANT TO BE ***SPIDER-MAN***, BEN? OR DO YOU WANT TO BE THE SCRAGGLY-SAD-NOT-QUITE-GOT-IT-TOGETHER-***ALMOST*** SPIDER-MAN WHO SHOWS UP EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE AND ASKS FRIENDS FOR MONEY?

Ashley Kafka M.D.

I AM SPIDER-MAN.

THAT IS ***EXACTLY*** WHAT I NEEDED TO HEAR, BEN. WELL DONE.

ENJOY THERAPY!

NO! I ALREADY ***TOLD*** YOU NO, ***TREVOR!***

WELL, AFTER ***THAT*** CONVERSATION, THERAPY SHOULD BE A BREEZE!

YOU SEEM A BIT... DISTRACTED?

YEAH. SORRY. I JUST HAD A WALK-AND-TALK WITH MAXINE BEFORE THIS, AND IT WAS... *HARROWING* IS MAYBE THE WORD?

SHE'S PRETTY INTIMIDATING.

TALK ABOUT AN *UNDERSTATEMENT*.

BUT IT'S HER JOB. JUST LIKE YOU AND I HAVE OURS, SHE HAS HERS. AND HERS IS *VERY* DIFFERENT FROM OURS.

THAT'S TRUE.

BUT WE CAN *TALK* ABOUT IT IF YOU'D LIKE?

NO. I'D RATHER JUST LET IT GO. I SAID WHAT I NEEDED TO SAY, WHICH IT TURNS OUT IS WHAT SHE NEEDED TO HEAR.

SOUNDS LIKE IT ACTUALLY WENT PRETTY WELL, THEN...ONCE YOU GIVE IT CONTEXT.

YEAH, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

WELL, LAST TIME, WE WERE TALKING ABOUT YOUR UNCLE AND HOW YOU FELT HE REALLY SHAPED THE PERSON YOU'VE BECOME.

YEAH. IN FACT, THE OTHER DAY I WAS WITH...AN OLD FRIEND, AND WE HAD SIMILAR RELATIONSHIPS TO OUR...FATHER FIGURES, AND I CAN HONESTLY SAY I DON'T KNOW WHO EITHER OF US WOULD BE WITHOUT THAT...*THOSE* RELATIONSHIPS.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE... AN ANCHOR ON A BOAT.

BOY, THAT SOUNDS DUMB WHEN I SAY IT OUT LOUD.

NO, STAY WITH IT.

WELL, ANCHORS HAVE THIS NEGATIVE CONNOTATION IN SO MANY WAYS, BUT YOU *NEED* THEM. THEY'RE CRITICAL TO FUNCTIONING PROPERLY. WITHOUT AN ANCHOR, YOU'RE... ADRIFT.

I REMEMBER THIS ONE TIME, WHEN I WAS FIXING A LOOSE STEP ON OUR FRONT PORCH IN THE POURING RAIN.

I MUST'VE BEEN ABOUT FOURTEEN, MAYBE?

MY AUNT HAD BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT IT FOR ***MONTHS***, AND I'D BEEN PUTTING OFF FIXING IT ALL SUMMER.

I JUST HAD DIFFERENT ***PRIORITIES***, Y'KNOW? I WAS A KID. WHAT DO ***I*** CARE ABOUT A LOOSE STEP?

AND THEN SHE ***FELL***, AND I FELT ***GOD AWFUL*** ABOUT IT.

AND SO I'M OUT THERE IN THE RAIN, TRYING TO FIX THIS STEP, AND MY UNCLE COMES OUT AND SAYS...

AND HE SAYS... WAIT...THAT'S WEIRD.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I...I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID. I... IT WAS ***RIGHT THERE***... AND NOW IT'S JUST ***GONE***. THAT'S SO STRANGE.

IT'S LIKE...***REVERSE DEJA VU*** OR SOMETHING.

I WOULDN'T WORRY YOURSELF ABOUT IT TOO MUCH, BEN.

BUT IT'S ***WEIRD***, RIGHT?

I DON'T KNOW IF IT IS, ACTUALLY. YOU'VE GOT A LOT GOING ON. A LOT OF CHANGES IN YOUR LIFE, VERY QUICKLY.

AND EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THEM ARE ***POSITIVE*** CHANGES, I THINK IT WOULD BE WEIRD IF YOU ***DIDN'T*** HAVE SOME REACTION TO THAT.

I'LL RECOMMEND TO BEYOND THAT THEY SCALE YOUR COMMITMENTS BACK SLIGHTLY--JUST FOR A DAY OR TWO--GIVE YOU A CHANCE FOR A NIGHT OFF, A CHANCE FOR YOUR BRAIN TO CATCH UP WITH EVERYTHING ELSE.

OKAY. THANKS. THAT'D BE NICE. I KNOW ***JANINE*** WOULD DEFINITELY APPRECIATE AN UNINTERRUPTED DATE NIGHT.

TERRIFIC.

McCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER

MAY, WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND GET SOME REST?

I CAN CALL YOU IF ANYTHING CHANGES.

NO OFFENSE, DEAR, BUT THE *LAST* TIME I LEFT THE ROOM, PETER SLIPPED INTO A COMA. I'M NOT INCLINED TO LEAVE AGAIN FOR SOMETHING AS FLEETING AS "GETTING SOME REST."

...I UNDERSTAND.

I DON'T LIKE THIS DR. BURDICK ONE BIT. I HATE TO ASK THIS, MARY JANE, BUT...

...IS IT POSSIBLE YOU COULD MAKE SOME CALLS AND PULL SOME STRINGS WITH SOME OF THOSE HOLLYWOOD PEOPLE YOU KNOW, OR THROUGH YOUR WORK WITH MR. STARK?

OH, MAY. IT WAS THE *FIRST* THING I DID. I CALLED *EVERYONE* I KNOW.

I EVEN TRIED DOCTOR STRANGE.

AND WHAT DID HE SAY?!

I COULDN'T GET THROUGH. I THINK HE... MIGHT NOT BE ON THIS DIMENSIONAL PLANE?

THAT'S CONFUSING.

I AGREE.

AND STARK?

NO. I COULDN'T GET HIM. I EVEN WENT THROUGH HIS EMERGENCY CHANNELS BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S INTO SOMETHING BIG.

WE MIGHT BE ON OUR OWN, MAY.

CHECK OUT **DEATH OF DOCTOR STRANGE #1!** --NITTERING NICK

CHECK OUT **IRON MAN,** WHERE BEN AND MISTY GOT CONNECTED IN THE FIRST PLACE! --NICK

NOPE.
WHAT?
IT *DOESN'T* HAPPEN THIS WAY. NOT TO MY PETER. *I WON'T HAVE IT.*
MAY... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MAY, *PLEASE* DON'T DO ANYTHING CRAZY.
I'M JUST GOING TO MAKE A COUPLE OF HOUSE CALLS.
TO WHO?
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT IT, DEAR.
MAY. WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, BE CAREFUL. PETER WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOU.
I'LL TAKE ANGRY PETER OVER COMATOSE PETER ANY DAY, MARY JANE.
ME TOO.
PLEASE COME BACK TO ME, TIGER.

HEY. I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU HOME.

I HAD A LITTLE TIME AFTER KAFKA. WANTED TO SEE YOU.

I'M NEVER GOING TO GET OVER YOUR THERAPIST BEING NAMED *KAFKA*.

TOTALLY EXPECTING YOU TO COME HOME HALF COCKROACH ONE DAY.

SO THEN I'D BE HALF MAN, HALF COCKROACH?

I WAS THINKING MORE HALF SPIDER, HALF COCKROACH.

OH, SO WE JUST GO WITH NO PERCENT MAN?

YEAH, THAT'S THE MOST TROUBLESOME PART, RIGHT?

OH, FOR SURE. A HUGE PERCENTAGE OF MY PROBLEMS ARE CAUSED BY THE MAN PARTS.

EXACTLY. I THINK MAYBE I'VE JUST SOLVED ALL OUR PROBLEMS.

NO PROBLEMS! I LOVE IT.
WELL, MAYBE NOT NO PROBLEMS.
WHAT PROBLEMS WE GOT?
WELL, I MEAN...A CAGE IS STILL A CAGE, NO MATTER HOW GILDED.
CAGE?
THIS IS THE BEST OF THE BEST, BUT...EVERY DOOR HAS SECURITY THAT WILL ONLY ALLOW THROUGH YOU AND ME AND PEOPLE FROM A LIST.
AND SOMETIMES THAT'S... A LOT.
SURE, IT'S WEIRD, BUT WHAT I DO IS DANGEROUS, AND BEYOND OFFERS PROTECTION FROM THAT WORLD, AMONG OTHER THINGS.
NO, I WANT YOU TO SAY WHAT YOU'RE FEELING.
I KNOW. AND CONSIDERING WHERE I JUST CAME FROM, WELL, IT FEELS BIZARRE TO COMPLAIN...
I--
JANINE...
I KNOW, I KNOW. YOU HAVE TO GO.
I'M SORRY.

IT'S OKAY. THIS IS THE *DEAL*, RIGHT?

...RIGHT.

CAN WE FINISH THIS CONVERSATION LATER?

SURE.

KAFKA'S GETTING ME A BIT OF TIME OFF--WE SHOULD PLAN A DATE NIGHT.

THAT'D BE NICE. BE CAREFUL OUT THERE, BEN.

ALWAYS.

LOVE YOU!

VOICE VERIFIED.

HEAT SIGNATURE VERIFIED.

BODY SCENT VERIFIED.

ELECTROMAGNETIC AURA VERIFIED.

GOODBYE, SPIDER-MAN.

LOVE YOU TOO.

SOMEWHERE IN MIDTOWN.

BEYOND'S INTEL HAS BEEN ON POINT SO FAR. BUT *THIS* ISN'T WHAT I EXPECTED TO FIND.

LAST I HEARD, ***MORBIUS*** WAS BACK TO DOING GOOD WORK... HAD GOTTEN HIMSELF TOGETHER AFTER THAT LAST SETBACK.*

THIS DOES ***NOT*** LOOK TOGETHER

SEE MORBIUS: THE LIVING VAMPIRE!

TRY TO KEEP IT CASUAL, KEEP HIM CALM. GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS, MAYBE WITHOUT ANY MORE BLOODSHED.

MORBIUS. ***MICHAEL...*** WHAT, *UH*...WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, MAN?

TELL ME ***YOU*** DIDN'T DO ALL THIS.

SPIDER-MAN!

GRAAAAAHK!

HEY NOW! THAT'S, UH... SOME MIGHT TAKE THAT LUNGE AS SOMEWHAT *UNFRIENDLY.*

CONSIDERING ALL THESE BODIES, YOU BEING ALL WILD-EYED AND COVERED IN BLOOD, THIS IS *NOT* LOOKING GOOD. TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENING.

THMP

"GRAAAAHHHG" IS NOT SUPER HELPFUL.

CRAAHHG!

ARRGGHK!

MMM. THAT'S SORTA JUST THE SAME.

I THINK MAYBE *TALKING THIS OUT* ISN'T GOING TO WORK AFTER ALL.

SLICE

GAH!

COLLEEN WAS RIGHT--I *AM* SLOW ON THE RIGHT.

WHAM

RRRRRRANEEEEEEED YOURRRR BLOOOD

THMP

THAT'S... *NOT* WHAT I NEED TO HEAR, MICHAEL.

I KNOW I SAW SOME OF THESE PEOPLE MOVING...

ARRRGHHH!

GRAAAHHHH!

C'MON, HAVE A PULSE. PLEASE BE ALIVE.

OH CRAP.

MORBIUS? PLEASE...LET ME HELP YOU... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

???

GRRR

TOO LATE.

HE'S SO STRONG. WAS HE *ALWAYS* THIS STRONG AND FAST?

FORGIVE ME.

CAN'T BREAK HIS GRIP... NOT BEFORE...

SLIKT

...THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING...

#78 BEYOND CORPORATION

STILL SOMEWHERE IN MIDTOWN.

RAAAAGGGHHH!

SLICH

SO, THIS IS NOT GOING GREAT.

AND THAT BITE WENT DEEP. SUIT IS DOING ITS JOB FOR THE MOST PART, BUT HE *DEFINITELY* GOT THROUGH.

AIER10101001AIERTOOOSUITOO1110BREACH.

1100101100IEEEEEEEEEMORBIUSEEEEEE

TOXIN1111000101IDENTIFIEDEEEEEEE

I10101011BLOODSTREAM10100

BLEEDING IS PRETTY BAD, ACTUALLY. SUIT IS SELF-SEALING...SHOULD STOP THE BLEEDING... ANNNNNY SECOND NOW...

HHHRNNNNNG

STILL GONNA NEED AN ANTIDOTE...OR SOMETHING?

MORBIUS =KOFF= I STILL THINK WE CAN TALK THIS OUT, MAN. =KOFF=

GRRRRAHNOOOOT WORKINNNNGGGG.

"NOT WORKING"?

RAAAGGGGH!

THWP

THWP

THWP

WAS HE... TRYING TO USE MY BLOOD AS A *CURE?*

HE'S BITTEN PETER BEFORE-- SUPPOSEDLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO *HEAL* HIMSELF. IS THAT WHAT'S HAPPENING?

SM

OH GOD. *DON'T FAINT,* REILLY. EVEN IF MORBIUS DOESN'T KILL YOU, THE *EMBARRASSMENT* WILL.

SLICE

ARGGH!

KNOCK IT OFF!

NEEEEEEED MORRRRRRRRE.

I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE... BUT I CAN'T KEEP *THIS* UP EITHER.

IF HE WANTS ME *SPECIFICALLY*... MAYBE HE'LL FOLLOW ME?

BUT TO WHERE?

HEH. YEAH. THAT'S AN IDEA.

THWIP

AS IDEAS GO, IT'S NOT MY BEST--BUT HARDLY MY WORST.

THWP

JUST GOTTA HOPE HE DOESN'T GIVE UP TOO SOON.

BEYOND BUILDING, BEN REILLY'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT.

WELL, HERE WE GO. DON'T LET ME DOWN NOW, LANGSTON.

VOICE VERIFIED. HEAT SIGNATURE VERIFIED. BODY SCENT VERIFIED. ELECTROMAGNETIC AURA VERIFIED. WELCOME, SPIDER-MAN.

YOU LOOK TERRIBLE.

CONSIDERING WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH, I LOOK *GREAT.*

MORBIUS. ***STOP.*** YOU ARE DECIDEDLY ***NOT*** INVITED. GET IT?

YEAH, I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR THE JOKES EITHER, TO BE HONEST...

...BUT THIS ***SECURITY SYSTEM*** IS NO JOKE. STAY WHERE YOU ARE AND LET ME GET YOU SOME HELP.

GRAAAAH!

DESIGNATE MORBIUS. SECURITY MEASURES 3-M-96-04-X

MMMM

AWWW

BEN?

BEN! BEN!

LANGSTON! CALL FOR HEL--

ALREADY HERE, MA'AM. LANGSTON LET US--

JUST HELP HIM!

LANGSTON SECURITY OVERRIDE PROTOCOL 61 DASH 9. OPERATOR JOHNSON. AUTHORIZATION CODE 11246.

VERIFIED. SECURITY SYSTEM DISABLED.

WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?

I DON'T KNOW, MISS. WE'LL HAVE TO GET THE SUIT OFF, SEE THE EXTENT OF HIS INJURIES.

OH BARF. I THINK THERE'S A *NIPPLE* IN THIS BIT.

BAG IT.

I HATE YOU.

JANINE, I'M SORRY-- YOU CAN'T GO.

WHAT?! MARCUS, THAT'S CRAZY. HE NEEDS ME.

I KNOW, BUT THEY WON'T LET YOU INTO THE MEDICAL FACILITY WITH HIM. I PROMISE YOU I WON'T LEAVE HIS SIDE AND I'LL KEEP YOU INFORMED AT EVERY STEP.

CLICK

LANGSTON SECURITY SYSTEM BACK ONLINE. ARMED.

...GREAT.

I SEE A NECK WOUND AND SOME WOUNDS TO THE MIDDLE TO LOWER TORSO... THE SCAN PICKING UP ANYTHING ELSE?

NO, DOCTOR. THE SUIT IS OTHERWISE INTACT.

EXCELLENT.

ARMOR SUCCESSFULLY REMOVED. AND...I HAVE PUNCTURE WOUNDS HERE. TWO. *DEEPER* THAN I'D LIKE. DO WE KNOW WHO HE WAS FIGHTING?

HE WAS FIGHTING *MORBIUS*, DOCTOR BAILEY.

IN THAT CASE, NURSE, PREPARE THE ANTITOXIN, PLEASE.

DOCTOR, WHAT EFFECTS MIGHT WE SEE IF WE *DON'T* ADMINISTER THE ANTITOXIN AT THIS TIME?

WHY... WHY WOULDN'T WE GIVE HIM THE ANTITOXIN?

THAT'S A QUESTION, DOCTOR BAILEY. I ASKED YOU FOR AN ANSWER.

*WHAT MIGHT WE SEE IN BEN REILLY IF WE DO **NOT** INOCULATE HIM AGAINST MORBIUS' VAMPIRE VIRUS?*

*UH...IT'S ANYONE'S GUESS WHAT WE MIGHT SEE... BUT THE **RISKS** ARE--*

I'M WELL AWARE THAT THERE ARE RISKS, DOCTOR, BUT THERE IS RISK IN *ANYTHING* BOLD. DOES THAT MEAN WE STOP *BEING* BOLD?

WILL REILLY DEVELOP ENTIRELY NEW VAMPIRE-BASED POWERS? COULD IT UNLOCK NEW SPIDER-VAMPIRE HYBRID POWERS? THIS COULD BE A RESEARCH GOLD MINE.

OH MY GOD--

WHAT?

N-NOTHING, MA'AM.

DOCTOR BAILEY?

WE...WE CAN'T POSSIBLY *KNOW* WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, DIRECTOR DANGER... IT WOULD BE HIGHLY UNETHICAL TO EVEN *SPECULATE...*

AGREED. PROCEED WITH THE ANTITOXIN. KEEP ME APPRISED OF REILLY'S CONDITION AND NOTIFY ME WHEN YOU BEGIN TO PROCESS THE MORBIUS... *PARTS.*

B-TEAM BETTER BE READY, VASQUEZ, BECAUSE THEY'RE UP.

AND IF THEY WON'T WEAR THE BEYOND GEAR, THEY HAVE TO TAKE THE DRONES WITH THEM. *NO ARGUMENTS.*

McCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER.

OH, SPIDER.

COME BACK TO ME, SPIDER.

?!?

PETE?!
PETER?!

:GASP:

PETER!
PETER.
C'MON, TIGER.
WAKE UP. YOU
CAN DO IT.

I...I'M SORRY. I'LL GO.

NO. YOU SHOULD STAY. IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM MOVE SINCE THIS STARTED.

...I'M SORRY.

DON'T BE. I'LL TAKE *THAT*-- HOWEVER I CAN GET IT.

I'D FEEL THE SAME WAY.

BUT CHANGE YOUR DAMN CLOTHES BEFORE A NURSE COMES IN HERE.

OKAY. YEAH. GOOD TIP.

C'MON, TIGER. I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE. HOW MANY MORE LOVE INTERESTS YOU WANT ME TO GET IN THIS ROOM? I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.

C'MON, MORBIUS. THIS ISN'T YOU. I MEAN, IT *SORT OF* IS, BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D MOVED PAST THIS NONSENSE.

WHOOMB

ARGGGHHH!

HIS INJURIES ARE *SEVERE.*

DID SPIDER-MAN DO THIS, OR BEYOND?

DEFINITELY STRIKES ME AS MORE BEYOND THAN SPIDER.

BREEEEP.

NO OFFENSE.

I *HATE* THE DRONES. AND I DO NOT CARE IF THEY TAKE OFFENSE.

BREEEEP.

MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL TO KNOW WE ARE BEING MONITORED LIKE THIS.

I DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN *YOU* DO, BUT IF WE WANT TO CASH THE CHECKS, WE TAKE THE DRONES.

THE CHECK BETTER BE *LARGE.*

TING

I HOPE YOU'RE READY WITH THAT RIDICULOUS SPIDER-STRAIGHTJACKET NONSENSE.

KRAK

I AM.

GOOD, BECAUSE HE IS STRONG AS HELL, INJURIES BE DAMNED.

GRAAAH!

$#%&.

NOT SO FAST.

KA-POW

NO BITING!

THAM!

UGH. I'M SORRY, MAN. ESPECIALLY WITH YOUR ARM ALL MESSED UP. BUT WE CAN'T LET YOU RUN AROUND THE CITY LIKE THIS.

ESPECIALLY NOT WITH ALL THE ***BITING.***

YEAH, THE BITING SUCKS. NO PUN INTENDED.

YOU WERE EXCITED ABOUT THAT PUN-- ADMIT IT.

I WILL NOT.

DEPLOY SPINNERETTE.

BUT MAYBE WE CAN HELP YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GONE ***WRONG*** HERE... WHAT DO YOU SAY?

GRAAAHH!

HARDLY A YES.

HARDLY.

FFWPT!

TIMING!

LADIES.

MONICA. IT'S ABOUT *TIME*, GIRL.

OH NO. YOU DESTROYED THE ANNOYING SPY DRONES, MONICA. ***WHATEVER*** SHALL WE DOOO?

I ***LOVE*** YOUR DEADPAN VOICE. IT'S TRULY MY FAVORITE OF YOUR VOICES.

DON'T LIE TO IMPRESS MONICA--YOU KNOW YOU LIKE MY ***ELMO*** VOICE BEST.

THAT IS... TRUE.

NOT TO CUT THROUGH THE CHITCHAT, WHICH I LOVE, BUT BEYOND SURELY HAS A REPLACEMENT DRONE EN ROUTE ALREADY. WE MUST BE QUICK...

WHAT HAVE YOU TWO FOUND SO FAR?

STEGMAN: A COMEDY
5:00
8:30
IT WAS GOOD. I LIKED IT.
BEN, YOU WERE *ASLEEP.*
NO... THAT'S HOW I *WATCH* MOVIES NOW. COOL, RIGHT?
YES, EVERYONE LOVED THE *SNORING.* THEY THOUGHT IT WAS SUPER COOL.
OH GOD. I DIDN'T. NOT REALLY.
ONLY A LITTLE.
BUT HONESTLY, I'M JUST SO GRATEFUL YOU'RE OKAY, I'LL TAKE YOU AND *ALL* THE SNORES.
I SHOULD HAVE CLOSE CALLS MORE OFTEN, THEN.
PLEASE *DON'T.* I WAS SO SCARED, BEN.
I KNOW. AND I'M SO SORRY I HAD TO BRING THAT FIGHT TO OUR DOORSTEP. I HOPE YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT IF I'D HAD ANY OTHER OPTION.

I KNOW. AND IF IT SAVED YOU, THEN I'M GLAD YOU DID IT. I LOVE YOU, BEN.

I LOVE YOU TOO, JANINE.

AH, HOW SWEET. BUT THOSE CRAZY KIDS SHOULD PROBABLY MAKE THAT A GOODBYE KISS.

BEYOND CORPORATION

#78.BEY

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.

YOU'LL NOTE THAT I DIDN'T PHRASE THAT AS A *QUESTION.*

MISTY KNIGHT
Hard as a coffin nail.

COLLEEN WING
Born without brakes.

DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON
Rougher than twenty miles of country road.

THIS MORNING.

THIS SUuuuuuucks.

I MEAN, I *GET* TRAINING.

YOU WANT A NEW *SPIDER-MAN*, YOU GOT TO TRAIN THE *NEW GUY* UP.

I *GET* IT.

BUT "*AVENGERS MURDER-MANSION*"?!

REALLY?!

I BET *JOHN WALKER* DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS KIND OF THING.

WHOA!

WELCOME TO THE AVENGERS, SPIDER-MAN!

HOPE YOU SURVIVE THE EXPERIENCE!

YEEP!

GRRRRRRRR

ISN'T THAT AN *X-MEN* THING?

SO IT'S AN *X-MEN* THING.

GIMME A BREAK. I NEVER DATED ANY *AVENGERS*.

THIS SUCKS

THIS SUCKS

THIS SUCKS

WHOOSH

YAAAAH!

THERE'S GIANT-MAN NIGHTMARES FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

JUST GOT TO GET TO THE GOAL...

THWIPP!

SPLAT

AND HE AND WASP ALWAYS WERE A PACKAGE DEAL.

JUST GOT TO--

TWP

nuts.

BOO.

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?

HELL IF I KNOW.

COLLEEN BUILT THIS SCENARIO.

END SIMULATION.

COME ON! AVENGERS MURDER-MANSION?

YOU'RE THE FINAL GIRL! THE CHEERLEADER!

IT'S LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A HORROR MOVIE!

I DATED IN HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEEN.

HEY, I SPENT MY YOUTH LEARNING THE BLADE.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S HELPING YOUR CASE.

SO. WHAT DID WE *LEARN?*

I HAVE *NO IDEA.* WARN THE AVENGERS AGAINST...SOMEONE WITH HORROR-MOVIE POWERS? OR JUST *COLLEEN?*

GOOD ADVICE.

TRAINING-WISE.

SPIDER-SENSE.

IT'S GREAT FOR ALERTING ME TO THREATS...

...BUT WITH ENOUGH THREATS TO KEEP IT GOING OFF *ALL THE TIME,* I CAN GET *BLINDSIDED.*

EXACTLY.

NAILED IT!

OUTSTANDING.

MS. KNIGHT, MS. WING, WITH ME, PLEASE.

THERE'S A *PROBLEM* DOWNTOWN. AND I THINK THAT BEYOND IS *WELL POSITIONED* TO SOLVE IT.

AND I WOULD LIKE *YOU TWO* TO SOLVE IT *FOR* ME.

WHAT *KIND* OF PROBLEM?

A, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, ***ROBOT MONSTER.*** WE'VE CODENAMED IT "OBSIDIAN STAR."

IT'S ON A RAMPAGE, AND NO ONE'S THERE TO STOP IT YET.

I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR A LITTLE ***POSITIVE WORD OF MOUTH*** FOR US.

AND BEFORE YOU SAY THAT THIS ISN'T IN YOUR ***CONTRACTS...***

...IS ***SAVING INNOCENT PEOPLE*** SOMETHING YOU TWO NEED TO BE ***CONTRACTUALLY OBLIGATED*** TO DO?

THAT *REALLY SUCKED*, BY THE WAY.

SUPER SUCKED.

PLEASE.

YOU TWO MAY NOT BE *SUPER HEROES*--

DAMN RIGHT.

--BUT YOU KNOW WHAT'S *RIGHT*. WHY DO YOU THINK I *HIRED* YOU?

BESIDES, I DIDN'T SEND YOU OFF *NAKED*, DID I?

DID I NOT *GENEROUSLY SUPPLY* YOU WITH A *VERY COOL* CAR AND FILL YOUR POCKETS WITH THE FINEST *MAD SCIENCE* THAT THE BEYOND CORPORATION SPECIAL PROJECTS R&D GROUP COULD SUPPLY?

IT *WAS* AN *EXCEPTIONALLY* COOL CAR.

BEEE-YOOND BEEE-YOOOOND

SKREEEECH

DEAR LORD, SHE GAVE US AN *ANTIMATTER BOMB.*

I CAN'T *BELIEVE* YOU CONVINCED ME TO LET YOU DRIVE.

HEY BABE, *ONE* OF US HAS TO READ THE *INSTRUCTION MANUAL* FOR ALL THIS STUFF MAXINE GAVE US...

BEEE-YOOND BEEE-YOOOND

...AND YOU *KNOW* IT'S NOT GOING TO BE *ME.*

KRASSH!

BESIDES, YOU'RE THE *SHOOTING* ONE.

I'M THE *SWORD* ONE.

AND NOW THE *DRIVING* ONE. THIS *RULES.*

HUSH NOW.

THERE IT IS.

"KEEP THE CAR STEADY."

SPECIAL DELIVERY, BABY.

WHOOMB

UH--

--MISTY--

"--IT'S COMING THIS WAY!"

SPEED

GRRR

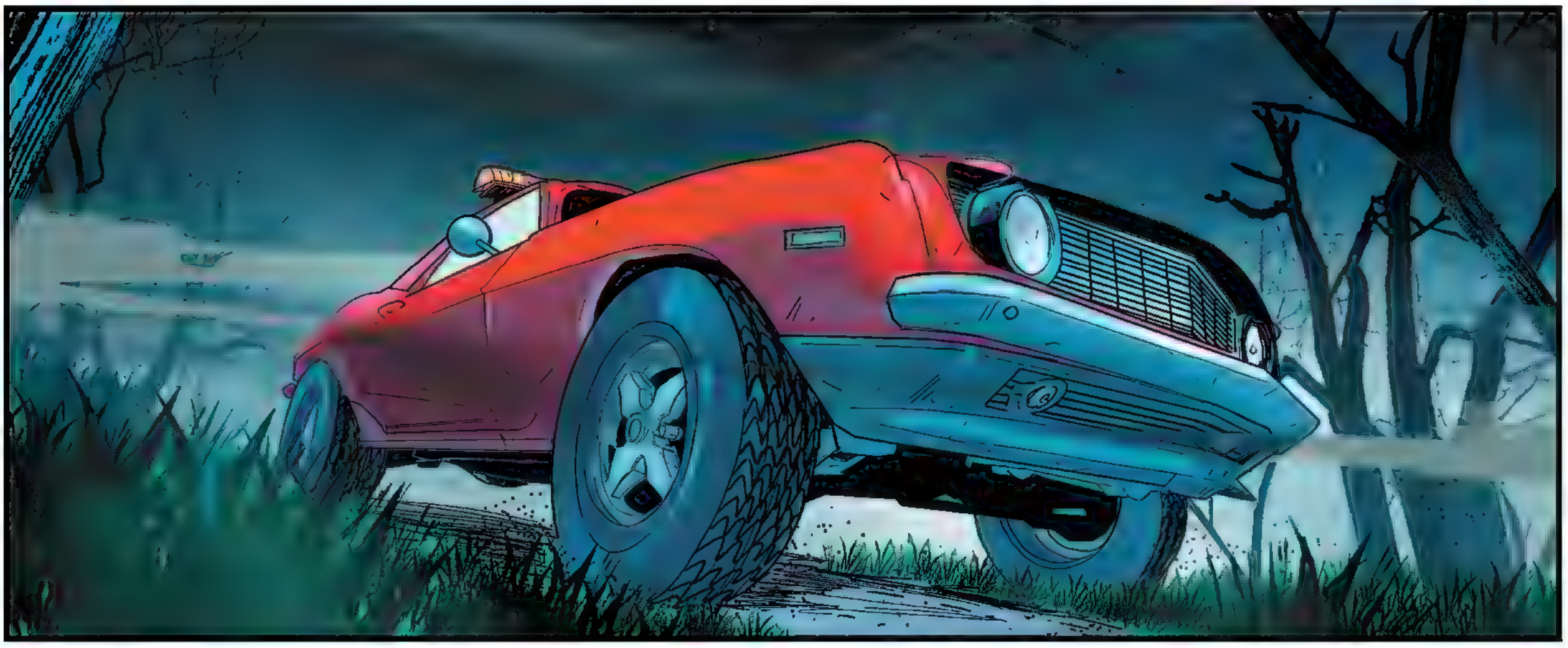
UH

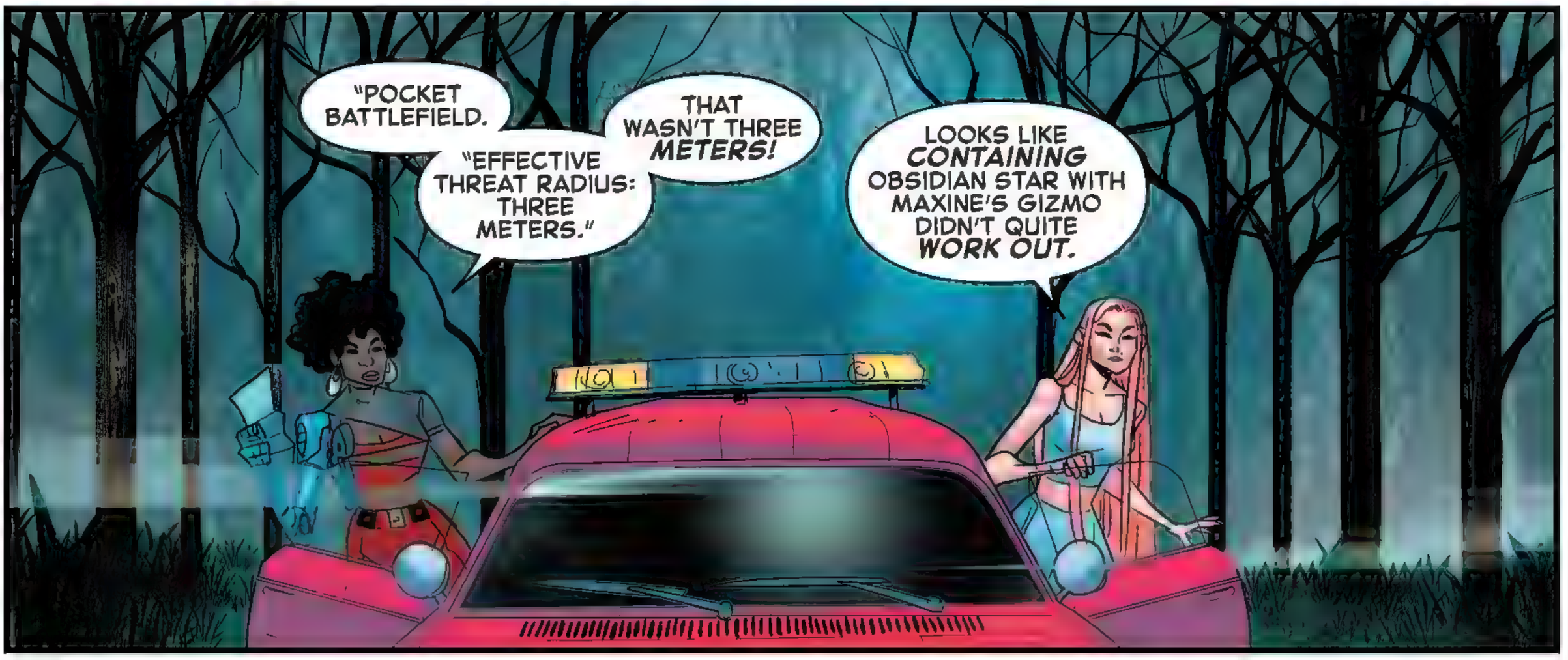
OH

BRRRP

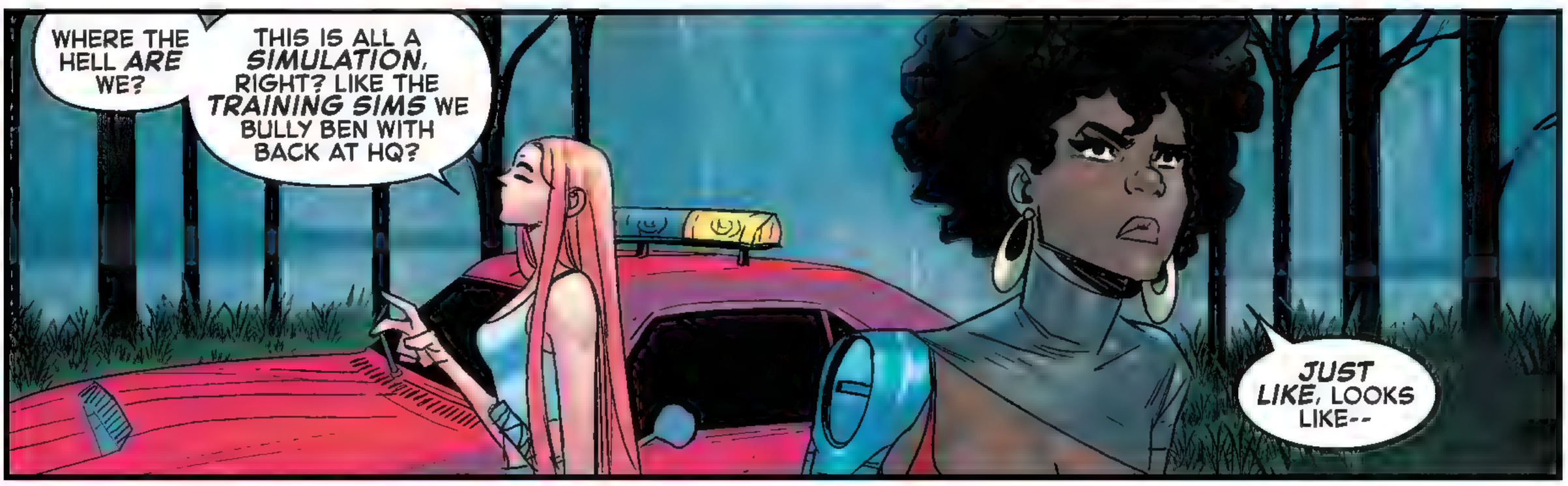
BRRRP

Beyond Corporation Pocket Battlefield
(SKU BY239847, patent pending)




"POCKET BATTLEFIELD.
"EFFECTIVE THREAT RADIUS: THREE METERS."
THAT WASN'T THREE METERS!
LOOKS LIKE CONTAINING OBSIDIAN STAR WITH MAXINE'S GIZMO DIDN'T QUITE WORK OUT.

WORKED A LITTLE TOO WELL.
WE ENDED UP GETTING OURSELVES CONTAINED ALONG WITH IT.


WHERE THE HELL ARE WE?
THIS IS ALL A SIMULATION, RIGHT? LIKE THE TRAINING SIMS WE BULLY BEN WITH BACK AT HQ?
JUST LIKE, LOOKS LIKE--

WELCOME TO *YOUR BABY*, BABY.

AVENGERS MURDER-MANSION.

☠☠☠☠

YO, THIS IS GOING TO *SUCK.*

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

COME ON, COME ON.

MAN, I DID A REALLY *GOOD JOB* ON THIS.

MAXINE? *MAXINE!*

WHAT THE *HELL* DID YOU GET US INTO?!

PLEASE KEEP CALM, MS. KNIGHT.

AS BEST AS OUR TEAM CAN FIGURE IT, OBSIDIAN STAR IS POWERED BY AN *EXOTIC ENERGY SOURCE.* IT WOULD APPEAR *THAT* ENERGY SOURCE IS INTERFACING IN AN UNPREDICTABLE WAY WITH THE POCKET BATTLEFIELD, WHICH HAS SEPARATE EXOTIC TECHNOLOGY AT ITS BASE.

"EXOTIC" BETTER NOT MEAN WHAT I THINK IT MEANS--

EXTRATERRESTRIAL, MS. KNIGHT.

THE POCKET BATTLEFIELD IS BUILT FROM RETRIEVED *KREE* TECHNOLOGY.

SO TURN IT OFF.

IMPOSSIBLE, UNFORTUNATELY.

IN ORDER TO COLLAPSE THE POCKET BATTLEFIELD AND THE SIMULATION, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND OBSIDIAN STAR AND REMOVE ITS ENERGY SOURCE.

OF COURSE WE ARE.

I HAVE EVERY FAITH IN YOU.

BEEP

MA'AM? WHAT'S THE PLAN?

IS THAT A *JOKE?* WHAT IS IT THAT YOU THINK WE *DO* HERE?

RECORD THE *DATA.* THIS IS A *SUPERB* FIELD TEST.

...SO IT'S *NOT* A SIM?

DO I *LOOK* LIKE AN ULTRAPHYSICIST? BUT IF THE POCKET BATTLEFIELD IS DRAWING POWER FROM OBSIDIAN STAR'S ENERGY SOURCE, I DON'T THINK WE'RE DEALING WITH JUST HOLOS ANYMORE, TOTO.

THIS ALL FEELS *VERY REAL.*

SUPER.

DAUGHTERS?

DAUGHTERS.

ATTACK

ughgrrr...

EVENING, MADAMS-- WELLLLCOME TO THE AVENNNNGERS MURDERRRRR-MANS--

KA-

POW!!!

Beyond Corporation KA-POW!!! Hi-Explosive Ammunition (SKU BY2394720).

ONE DOWN. LET'S FIND THAT WEIRD CRITTER AND GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

Beyond Corporation Sanjuro Vibro-katana (SKU BY340129)

Beyond Corporation Bug-Off Hi-Intensity Insecticide (SKU BY123094)

Beyond Corporation Whoops! All Scorpions! (SKU BY206Y392)

Beyond Corporation Hamm-R-Hand (SKU BY0293847)

Beyond Corporation Out, Damned Spot! Stain Remover (SKU BY06958473)

(Ditto)

KIA!

SCHICK

HUFF

HUFF

CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE USING A *BEYOND* SWORD.

YOU THINK--

HUFF

YOU THINK I'D TAKE MY *GOOD* SWORD ON A GIG FOR *MAXINE?*

THING'S LIKE A *THOUSAND YEARS OLD.* YOU CAN'T JUST GET A *REPLACEMENT* OFF *eBAY.*

WE'VE BEEN CARVING UP AVENGERS FOR *AGES.*

BUT WHERE'S *OBSIDIAN STAR?*

I DUNNO.

WAIT.

MAXINE SAID THAT OBSIDIAN STAR'S *POWER SOURCE* WAS INTERACTING WITH THE *POCKET BATTLEFIELD.*

LIKE SOME KIND OF *FEEDBACK LOOP* OR SOMETHING.

YEAH, SO?

THAT MEAN'S OBSIDIAN STAR'S NOT TRAPPED IN THE SIM, LIKE *WE* ARE.

OBSIDIAN STAR *IS* THE SIM.

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN *MEAN--?*

IT'S A *HAUNTED HOUSE.*

DO THE MATH.

☠☠☠☠☠

☠☠☠☠☠

YAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

YOU GOT ANY MORE *BEYOND TRICKS* UP YOUR SLEEVE?

JUST ONE.

BUT I DON'T *KNOW*...

WARNING DON'T NO DO NOT

USE IT! WE'RE *DEAD MEAT* EITHER WAY!

KILL THE HOUSE BEFORE IT KILLS US!

OKAY.

SAY YOUR PRAYERS, GIRL.

I'M BUDDHIST!

BUDDHISTS SAY PRAYERS, *COLLEEN.*

Beyond Corporation
DO NOT USE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES
Antimatter Bomb (not for mass market [yet])

WOOF!

NOW *THAT* WAS A HELL OF A KICK.

YOU DIDN'T THINK TO JUST CHUCK THAT THING THROUGH THE DOOR FROM THE *GET-GO?*

GIRL, IT WAS AN *ANTIMATTER BOMB.*

IT WAS, *BY DEFINITION,* A WEAPON OF LAST RESORT.

PFF.

WIMP.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SHOULD I *CUT* IT OUT?

NAH.

I THINK FOR A SITUATION LIKE THIS...

...YOU GOT TO BE *HANDS-ON.*

SQUELCH

AND THEN?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "AND THEN"?

WEREN'T YOU RECORDING EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN THE POCKET BATTLEFIELD?

IT TURNS OUT THAT DETONATING A PROTOTYPE ***ANTIMATTER BOMB*** PLAYS MERRY HELL WITH SENSITIVE ELECTRONICS.

WE LOST CONTACT WITH YOU AFTER THAT.

WHERE IS THE OBSIDIAN STAR POWER SOURCE?

WHAT POWER SOURCE?

MISTY WAS DIGGING AROUND INSIDE THAT THING'S CHEST FOR AGES. IT WAS ***GROTESQUE.*** SHE DIDN'T FIND ***ANYTHING.***

NOTHING?

"NOTHING."

"NOT A DAMN THING."

SO, AFTER MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF PROTOTYPE WEAPONS DESTROYED...

...YOU BROUGHT BACK... *NOTHING?*

IS THAT AN *ACCUSATION*, MAXINE?

AN *ALLEGATION?*

AN *INDICTMENT*, EVEN?

AFTER ALL, YOU SENT US OUT THERE TO *PROTECT* PEOPLE, RIGHT? TAKE DOWN THE BADDIE, SAVE THE GOODIES?

SURELY NOT JUST TO GET YOU AN *EXOTIC POWER SOURCE?*

THOUGHT SO.

I'M TAKING A SICK DAY, BY THE WAY.

I'M TAKING TWO.

MENTAL HEALTH.

LATER DAYS!

A SICK DAY.
At an undisclosed location.

YEAH...

...I THINK I KNOW *JUST* WHERE THIS NEEDS TO GO.

#75 WEBHEAD VARIANT BY
PATRICK GLEASON

BEYOND CORPORATION

BEYOND CORPORATION #79

YES, STREAMLINING THE VACATION PROCESS IS A *MUST!* IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WORK-LIFE BALANCE, YOU KNOW? HANG ON A SEC--

HECK OF A WAY TO END OUR FIRST WEEK ON THE JOB! TO *BEYOND!*

OKAY, BE COOL, BUT I SNAGGED SOME OF THOSE NEW HANGOVER PILLS THE TEAM IN PHARMACEUTICALS ARE R&D-ING, SO DRINK AWAY!

I FRIGGIN' *LOVE* THIS JOB!

THROW ONE UP FOR THE 'GRAM.

I FRIGGIN' *LOVE* THIS BAR!

CATCH Y'ALL MONDAY!

SEE YA, DOUG!

I FRIGGIN' LOVE THAT FOOL, DOUG!

HICCUP

DOUG CAME FROM SOMEWHERE BACK IN HER LONG AGOOOOO. THE SENTIMENTAL FOOL DON'T SEE.

TRYING H--♪HICCUP♪--ARD TO RECREATE WHAT HAD ♪HICCUP♪ YET TO BE CREATEDDDDD. ONCE IN HER LIFE, SHE MUSTERS A SMILEEEEE, FOR DOUG'S NOSTALGIC TALE.

NEVER COMING NEAR WHAT DOUG WANTED TO SAY. ONLY TO REEAALIZEEE IT NEVER REALLY WAS--

HUH?

OH MY GOD!

KRRZZT!

WHY ARE YOU *DOING* THIS, DOC?!

'CAUSE I DON'T THINK A *FIRMWARE UPDATE* SHOULD TAKE THIS LONG!

AFTER THE *MORBIUS INCIDENT* SOME UPGRADES WERE TO BE EXPECTED.

OF COURSE IF OUR NEW HIRE WASN'T A *NO-SHOW* THIS MORNING, THINGS WOULD BE MOVING MUCH FASTER.

NOT SAYING YOUR JOB ISN'T IMPORTANT, JOE, BUT WHAT ARE THE ODDS I'LL GET *BIT BY A VAMPIRE* TWICE IN THE SAME MONTH?

DID YOU TRY TURNING IT OFF AND THEN ON AGAIN?

THIS IS *PRECISELY* THE TYPE OF CONCERN BEYOND *PAYS* PEOPLE TO HAVE. YOU'D DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT AND TAKE YOUR DUTIES A BIT MORE SERIOUSLY.

I THINK I'VE MADE IT CLEAR HOW SERIOUSLY I TAKE MY RESPONSIBILITIES. IT'S WHY I'D RATHER BE DOWN THERE HELPING--INSTEAD OF SITTING THROUGH *ANOTHER* TECH-TALK.

I'M A BIT OF A GENIUS MYSELF, IN CASE YOU FORGOT. I CAN DO A FIRMWARE UPDATE IN MY SLEEP.

WE'RE RIGHT HERE, MAN...

IN CASE *YOU* FORGOT, BEYOND AND ITS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE INVESTED A *CONSIDERABLE* AMOUNT NOT ONLY INTO YOUR AND JANINE'S REHABILITATION, BUT ALSO INTO EQUIPPING YOU WITH THE BEST TECHNOLOGY, INTEL, AND SUPPORT STAFF MONEY CAN BUY.

SO THAT WHEN SPIDER-MAN IS OUT THERE, YOU'RE REPRESENTING BEYOND'S INTERESTS IN THE BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT.

"BEYOND'S INTERESTS"? I MUST HAVE MISHEARD YOU.

MY UNDERSTANDING OF OUR ARRANGEMENT IS THAT JUST BECAUSE I'M SPIDER-MAN AND WORK FOR BEYOND DOESN'T MEAN THEY *OWN* ME.

I'M MY *OWN* MAN, MARCUS. MY OWN *SPIDER-MAN.*

BEN, I--

YOU CHOSE ME OVER THE OTHER GUY BECAUSE I'M TOO DAMNED BULLHEADED AND STRONG-WILLED. *YOUR WORDS,* MARCUS.

YOU WANTED ME BECAUSE I HAVE MY OWN THOUGHTS, AND RIGHT NOW I'M THINKING MY JOB ISN'T TO HELP BEYOND LOOK GOOD-- IT'S TO *HELP PEOPLE.*

ACTUALLY BEN, IT'S *BOTH.*

HOPE YOU'RE NOT GOING TOO FAR--YOUR PATROL STARTS IN HALF AN HOUR!

I NEED TO CLEAR MY HEAD. WOULD HATE TO DISAPPOINT BEYOND WITH A BAD PERFORMANCE.

BET MARCUS AND THE GEEK SQUAD ARE SCRAMBLING TO SEE WHERE I GO ON MY LITTLE "STROLL."

GUESS I SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED THE WHOLE "UPDATE THE FIRMWARE IN MY SLEEP" WASN'T A BLUFF. I DID IT LAST NIGHT.

NOTHING TOO FANCY. JUST A SIMPLE A.I. THAT LETS ME TURN OFF MY SUIT'S TRACKING AND COMM SYSTEMS.

DO NOT DISTURB MODE ON, PLEASE.

DO NOT DISTURB ENGAGED.

OH, HEY, MJ. WASN'T SURE YOU'D BE HERE. DIDN'T WANT TO, *UH*, INTRUDE OR ANYTHING.

BEN...IT'S FINE. COULD USE THE COMPANY, HONESTLY. CORPORATE LIFE SEEMS TO BE TREATING YOU WELL?

HA, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT. SOMETIMES, I THINK ANSWERING TO BOARD MEMBERS IS SCARIER THAN ANY RUN-IN I-- *UH, WE*--EVER HAD WITH ***RHINO***.

YOU WANT A BREATHER? I CAN DO FIREWATCH IF YOU WANT TO TAKE IN ALL THE SIGHTS OF ONE OF NEW YORK'S PREMIER ICUs?

I ALREADY HIT MOST OF THE VENDING MACHINES IN THE EAST WING.

MAYBE I'LL LET MY HAIR DOWN AND TRY THE ONES BY THE NURSES' STATION? I HEAR THAT'S WHERE THEY HIDE THE GOOD STUFF.

DON'T GO ANYWHERE, OKAY, TIGER?

WANT ANYTHING?

I WOULDN'T SNEEZE AT A COCO-BAR.

CARDS ON THE TABLE, YOU'VE DEFINITELY LOOKED BETTER, BUDDY.

DON'T BE STUPID, BEN. HE DOESN'T NEED BITS RIGHT NOW.

LOOK, YOU'RE COMIN' OUT THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS THING SMELLING LIKE ROSES. I JUST ***KNOW*** IT.

AND I CAN'T WAIT FOR ALL THE GOOD WE'RE GONNA DO ON THE STREETS ***TOGETHER.***

BUT I GOTTA BE HONEST HERE, PETE. IT'S NOT ***EASY.***

I MEAN, I DIDN'T THINK IT ***WOULD*** BE, DON'T GET ME WRONG. IT'S JUST--THE ***SAVING PEOPLE*** PART COMES NATURAL. IT'S IN OUR DNA, YOU KNOW?

BUT IT'S THE BIGGER, ***EXISTENTIAL*** STUFF-- AM I GOING ABOUT THIS SPIDER-MAN THING THE RIGHT WAY? DID I MAKE THE RIGHT PLAY?

'CAUSE THE LI'L VOICE IN THE BACK OF MY NOGGIN STOPPED ASKING "***WHO*** IS SPIDER-MAN?" AND MOVED ONTO "***WHAT*** IS SPIDER-MAN?"

I GUESS I'M JUST WONDERING IF I HITCHED MY CART TO THE RIGHT WAGON?

FEEL DUMB EVEN SAYING THIS OUT LOUD, BUT DOES BEYOND REALLY HAVE FOLKS ON THE GROUND'S BEST INTEREST AT HEART?

WOW, LISTEN TO ME. GOTTA BE THE ONLY GUY ON EARTH WHO CAN PUT A GUY IN A COMA INTO AN EVEN *DEEPER*...

--HAVE BREAKING NEWS IN MIDTOWN--

BREAKING NEWS

...SLEEP.

--REPORTS OF AN ARMED BANK ROBBERY AND HIGH-SPEED CHASE CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS.

WE'LL KEEP YOU UPDATED AS NEW INFORMATION COMES IN.

SAVED BY THE BELL.

THANKS FOR THE TALK, PETE. I'LL DO US *PROUD*, BUDDY. DON'T YOU WORRY.

UM, AH, GET BETTER, BUDDY. CONSIDER THAT WISH OFFICIALLY MADE!

RAINCHECK ON THAT COCO-BAR. DUTY CALLS!

HEARD *THAT* ONE BEFORE.

THWIP

DO NOT DISTURB, OFF.

KZZZRT --JUST GET ME THROUGH! WAIT--BEN? WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN? WE KEPT GETTING SENT TO VOICEMAIL.

WHICH WAS A BIT OF A SURPRISE FOR OUR ENGINEERING TEAM CONSIDERING THAT'S NOT A FEATURE THAT CAME WITH YOUR SUIT!

SORRY, MARCUS. I'M EN ROUTE NOW.

THIS IS A JOB, REMEMBER? THERE'RE PEOPLE OUT THERE COUNTING ON US. I'M GREAT AT MY JOB SO YOU CAN BE EXCELLENT AT YOURS.

HELP ME, HELP YOU, HELP THEM.

UH, DUDE...

"YEAH, OKAY, YOU GOT ME."

OMO

ANYWAY, GOT A DAY TO SAVE, MARCUS. TALK SOON!

DUDE, DUDE!

SORRY, FELLAS.

JUST TRYNA'--

--STOP SOME ROBBERS--

--AND DO--

--A LI'L THWIPPIN' 'N' QUIPPIN' HERE.

THWIP THWIP

THWIP THWIP

OOF!

KRAK

UH-OH! OUT OF THE WAY!

AHHHH!

COMING IN HOT, KID!

WHAA--!

NICE TO MEET YA. I'M SPIDER-MAN.

THAT WAS PRETTY SCARY, *HUH?* BRIGHT SIDE, YOU CAN TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS YOU MET SPIDER-MAN.

I CAN?

ABSOLUTELY. THEY'LL LOVE IT!

THWIP

BEEP! BEEP!

THREE CALLS IN ONE DAY IS A BIT MUCH, MARCUS.

THWIP

THOUGHT THE SUBTEXT OF OUR LAST CONVO WAS "I'M WILLING TO BE A TEAM PLAYER." I MEAN, I REALLY LAID IT ON *THICK*.

YOU DID AN INCREDIBLE JOB, BEN. I'M HONESTLY THRILLED YOU RESPONDED SO WELL TO THIS PARTICULAR TIER OF CRIME.

I'LL SEE ABOUT ADDING MORE STREET-LEVEL ACTIVITIES TO THE PATROL-ALGORITHM. BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I CALLED.

BEYOND BOARD MEMBER ***ANDREW AIRS*** PING'D SECURITY ABOUT A POSSIBLE BREAK-IN. DOORS TO HIS PENTHOUSE ARE IN LOCKDOWN MODE, AND YOU'RE OUR FASTEST WAY IN.

I DON'T KNOW IF BABYSITTING BILLIONAIRE BOARD MEMBERS MEETS MY DEFINITION OF "DOING GOOD OUT THERE."

SOMETIMES THE "LITTLE GUY ON THE GROUND" IS A BIT LESS LITTLE THAN EXPECTED. AIRS HAS PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT HIM TOO.

OKAY, CONSIDER MY HEARTSTRINGS OFFICIALLY PULLED!

ETA: FOUR MINUTES.

SO *THIS* IS HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES?

I DIDN'T KNOW CEILINGS COULD VAULT SO HIGH!

THEN AGAIN, MY NEW PLACE IS PRETTY EPIC.

UGGGH... HELLO? SOMEBODY...AGH THERE?! PLEASE... I NEED HELP...

DON'T WORRY, *UH*, BOSS... HELP IS HERE!

SPIDER-MAN? I'M...FEELING... DIZZY... HURRY!

STAY CALM, ANDREW. WE'LL GET YOU TAKEN CARE OF IN NO TIME!

LUCKILY, THE MAN ON THE CASE IS BEYOND'S FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD...

...SPIDER-MAN?

ANDREW? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.

YOU LOOK *DEAD*, ANDREW.

THEN WHO THE HELL WAS CALLING...

...MY NAME?!

IMPACT FOAM TOOK MOST OF THE BLAST BUT NOT ALL. HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S JUST BEEN USED AS HULK'S PERSONAL SPEEDBAG. GOTTA GET ON MY FEET.

I'VE LEARNED THE CALLS OF A *THOUSAND* ANIMALS, SPIDER.

AND I KNOW *YOURS*... THE BROKEN MOANS OF A DYING MAN.

KRAVEN, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE-- *UGGH!*

WSSHHH

IT IS A GRAND NIGHT, FOR *KRAVEN THE HUNTER* WISHES TO BESTOW A GREAT GIFT UPON YOU!

WHOP!

DEADPOOL, WOLVERINE, AND NOW YOU. I BRING YOU THE OFFERING OF MY GREATEST HUNT! A HUNT OF CLEANSING!

LUCKY SHOT.

JUST NEED TIME TO CLEAR MY HEAD.

CAREFUL WHERE YOU SWING THAT THING, BUDDY!

I HEARD RUMORS THAT YOU HAD COME TO HEEL UNDER CORPORATE MASTERS.

I FIRST THOUGHT IT AN *AFFRONT*, BUT THEN I REALIZED IT WAS THE PERFECT MEANS OF BAITING THE WATERS.

WSSSH

GOOD, KEEP TALKING. STARTING TO GET MY HEAD BACK IN THE GAME.

OH DAMN, THAT'S WILD. YOU CRAZY FOR THIS ONE, K.

THWIP

THWIP

AND IT'S BECOMING VERY CLEAR THAT THIS TRAP WAS WELL PLANNED. TOO MANY WEAPONS SCATTERED ABOUT.

A FEW PENCIL PUSHERS GO MISSING AND THEY SEND OUT THEIR GREAT CHAMPION TO SAVE THEM.

Y-YOU REALLY THINK I'M *GREAT?*

SPIDER-MAN

YOU HAVE GREAT SPIRIT, SPIDER. I HAVE *MISSED* IT. TO MAKE LIGHT OF SUCH HEAVY WORK IS SOMETHING I DO GREATLY ADMIRE.

GUUUH!

KRAK

SLOPPY! LED YOU RIGHT INTO IT! COLLEEN'S GONNA BE PISSED.

YOU'VE REALLY DONE A NUMBER ON THIS PLACE, KRAVEN. GOT ME THINKING WE SHOULD GET SOME FRESH AIR!

THERE!

CRAAK!

THWIP

WHEW, OKAY. LET'S START FROM THE TOP.

AGAIN?!

BOOBY-TRAPPED!

AGGH, DAMMIT!

SLAM

OOOF!

FEEL LIGHT-HEADED. NOT BLOOD LOSS. SOMETHING *ELSE*. OH NO...

WARNXXXING-- SUITXXXBREACH-- UNKNXXXOWN TOXXXINS-- ENTERED BLOXXXOD STRXXXEAM.

WHAT THE HELL?!

DART TIPS MUST HAVE BEEN LACED WITH THOSE WEIRD HERBS KRAVEN'S ALWAYS GOING ON ABOUT.

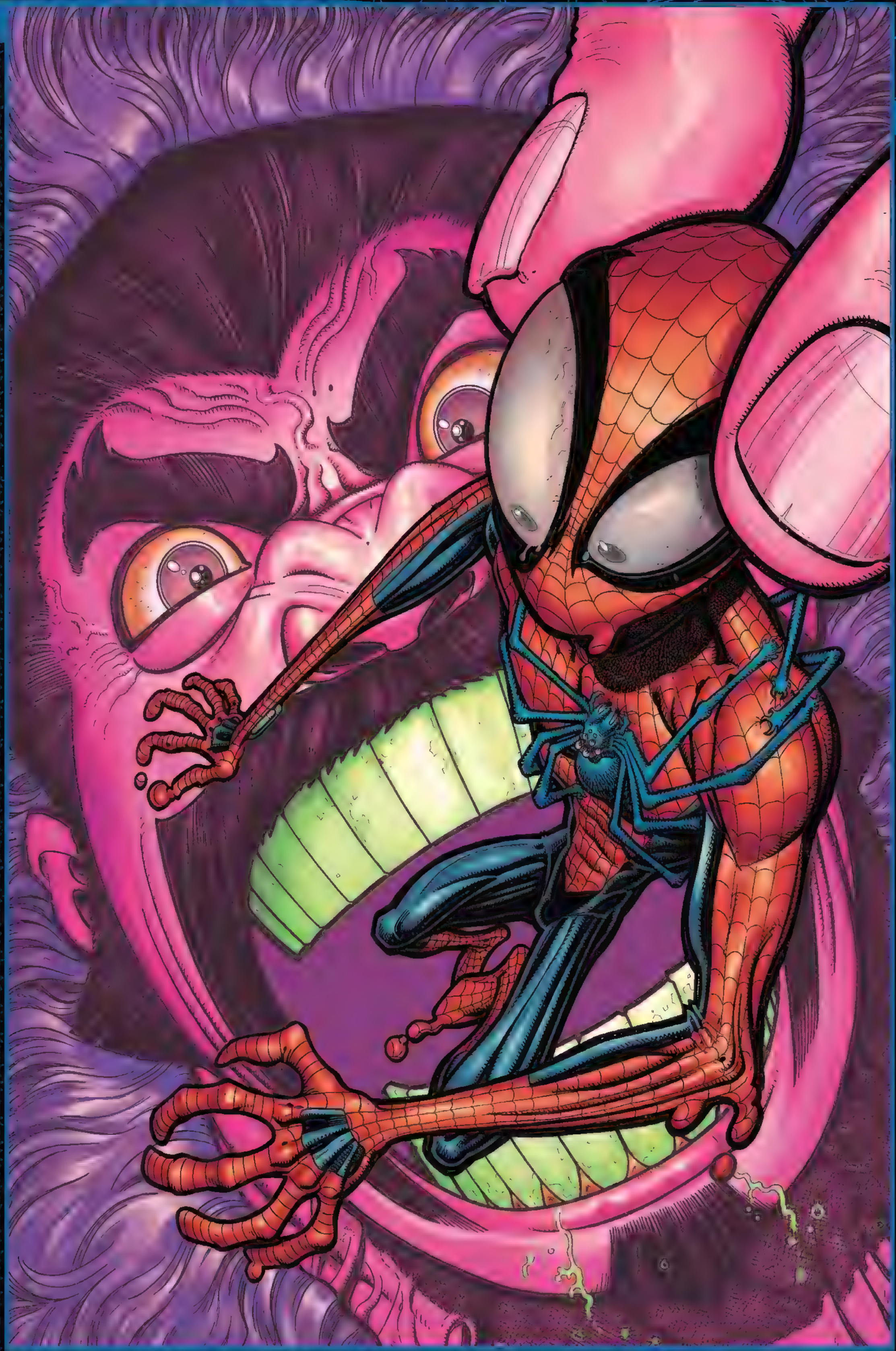
FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS FOCUS

FIND THE HORIZON, BEN. LOCK ONTO IT. SETTLE IN. ORIENT YOURSELF. THIS ISN'T REAL--

MY GOD.

REJOICE, SPIDER!

FOR YOUR GREAT AWAKENING HAS BEGUN!



REJOICE, SPIDER! FOR YOUR GREAT AWAKENING HAS BEGUN! SEE THE WORLD AS IT TRULY IS, AND LET IT AWAKEN THE FIRE INSIDE!

SYXTEMX-KZZT-FAXXUREX--

VISIONS GETTING MORE INTENSE. SUIT'S SO BUSTED, NO TELLING WHEN THINGS'LL KICK IN.

SPIDEY-SENSE IN OVERDRIVE. MOVE, BEN. YOU NEED TO BE MOVING!

EMBRACE THIS OFFERING. LOOK INTO THE ABYSS AND KILL WHAT STARES BACK! FOR THE TRUTH WILL BE MUCH SCARIER!

THWP

EQUILIBRIUM... GONE... CAN'T... THINK...

BLXXXOOD OXXXYGEN LEXELS DRXXXPPING.

M-MIND... GETTING... SOFT...

YOU SEEM TO BE LOSING YOUR GRACE, SPIDER. PERHAPS THE *CORPORATE LEASH* FASTENED TO YOUR NECK HAS MADE YOU *WEAK?*

CAN'T... FOCUS... SINKING? AM...I... *SINKING?*

COLD... THIS PLACE... IS...COLD...

NO! DON'T GET LOST, PETER!

I MEAN, *BEN!* I AM *BEN!* I AM *SPIDER-MAN!*

THWIP

I *KNOW* WHO I *AM!* I KNOW THAT I HAVE *PURPOSE!*

NO. I'M NOT SPIDER-MAN. I'M NOT A MAN. I'M A *SHELL.*

DRINK IN THE FIRST *TASTES* OF THIS BURNING TRUTH-- AN EPIPHANY. I BRING YOU THE HONOR OF BEARING WITNESS...

I AM A BLANK CANVAS. A ROUGH SKETCH OF GREATER MEN.

...TO A BAPTISM OF YOUR METTLE. SO YOU MAY REVERT TO YOUR *TRUEST*, NATURAL FORM. FREE FROM THE *SHACKLES* OF CAPITALIST HANDLERS!

BLOXXXOD LEXXVEXXLS CRIXXXTICAL. SYSXXXTEMS FAIXXXLING.

JUST... NEED...TO... REST...

WARXXXING-- KZZT

AFTER...REST... EVERYTHING... WILL BE...FINE...

I-IMPXXXACT... IMMEN-I-XXXT.

KAKABOOM!

LISTEN WELL, SPIDER... I WILL MAKE YOU *WHOLE* AGAIN...

IT'S DARK.

...OUR TRIAL...SOON BEGINS...

SO DARK.

...AND THE HUNT IS *RENEWED.*

JA NINE?

WILL SOMEBODY GET ME EYES ON BEN, PLEASE?!

HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY THINK I'D STICK MY NECK OUT FOR THE GUY WHO *GHOSTS* ME *THREE TIMES* IN *ONE DAY*?!

SIR, THIS JUST CAME IN.

THE COMMS AND LOCATOR WEREN'T TURNED OFF. THEY'RE *GONE*. WENT DARK ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE EXPLOSION AT AIRS'.

DAMMIT, THIS IS THE *EXACT OPPOSITE* OF BEING EXCELLENT, BEN.

KEEP THIS AS FAR AWAY FROM MAXINE FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN, *UNDERSTAND?* IF THIS ISSUE ISN'T RESOLVED SOON, *WE'RE* GOING TO BE THE ONES WISHING WE'D DISAPPEARED.

HOW MANY ROCKS AND HARD PLACES CAN ONE COUPLE PUT ME BETWEEN?

Janine

BUZZZ! BUZZZ!

WHAT NOW?

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO BEN, MARCUS? AND DON'T FEED ME ANY CORPORATE DOUBLESPEAK.

JANINE, I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT--

THAT'S #$%&, MARCUS! ONE MINUTE YOUR SPIDER-I.T. NERDS ARE *SWARMING* OUR APARTMENT REPLACING FIBER-OPTIC CABLES, AND THE NEXT, THEY'RE ALL RUSHING OUT MURMURING ABOUT A "CODE BLUE." JUST WHAT THE HELL HAS BEN GOTTEN HIMSELF *INTO?*

I'D LIKE TO **REMIND** YOU THAT WHEN YOU CAME ON BOARD WITH BEN, HE SIGNED A **ROBUST** NDA AND CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.

AND I'D LIKE TO REMIND *YOU* THAT *I'M* THE ONE WHO'S *DONE TIME* AND KNOWS HOW TO *HANDLE* HERSELF.

SO IF I HAVE TO *DROP-KICK* YOU IN THE CHEST TO PROTECT THE MAN I LOVE, THEN I HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR THIS TINY GINGER TO TAP-DANCE THE *CHEERS* THEME ALL OVER YOUR STERNUM.

I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL DO IT, MARCUS.

AND I SEE YOU!

COME ON! COME ON! COME ON!

I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD HAVE LEFT THE CABLE!

LOOK, THERE'S A SITUATION CURRENTLY UNFOLDING, BUT WE'RE **HANDLING** IT. WHEN I KNOW MORE, **YOU'LL** KNOW MORE.

BEYOND'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST ARE ON IT, JANINE.

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I'M **AFRAID** OF.

CLICK!

UPDATES, PEOPLE?

SORRY, SIR, BUT WE'RE FLYING BLIND UNTIL THE SUIT IS BACK ONLINE.

BUZZZ! BUZZZ!

YOU GONNA GET THAT OR...?

JANINE, I ASSURE YOU THAT I'LL GET BACK TO YOU WHEN I CAN, BUT RIGHT NOW, I HAVE MORE PRESSING MATTERS TO ATTEND TO!

WELL, THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW, MR. MOMPLAISIR.

IF I WERE MS. GODBE, THAT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE. LUCKILY, WHEN I HAVE QUESTIONS, THEY ARE ANSWERED.

MAXINE, MA'AM, LET ME FILL YOU IN...

UGGGH.

FOURTEEN FINGERS. GREAT. STILL POISONED.

SO THAT'S STILL HAPPENING.

WOUNDS ARE COMPLETELY CLEANED AND STITCHED UP? THAT'S...UNEXPECTED.

NEED TO FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE. AND ALSO FIND OUT EXACTLY WHERE HERE *IS*--

YO, HE'S FINALLY AWAKE!

IT'S THE BIG MAN HIMSELF! THIS IS KINDA COOL!

I'M *DOUG SIRAVANTA!* THAT'S *ADAOBI* AND *BASIR*. WE'VE BEEN HELD UP HERE A FEW DAYS.

ONE MINUTE, I'M CLEANING THE ALGAE TANKS, AND THE NEXT, I'M BEING TOSSED IN HERE.

HECK OF A WAY TO START OUR FIRST WEEK.

ALGAE TANKS? WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT, JANINE?

UH, IT'S ADAOBI. BUT THIS IS A BEYOND CULTIVATION PLATFORM.

BASICALLY, A BIG OL' ALGAE AND SEAWEED FARM. IT'S WHERE WE GET THE STUFF TO MAKE THE *BEYAWN BURGERS!*

IT'S MOSTLY AUTOMATED. THEY ONLY KEEP A FEW OF US HERE TO RESET AND REPAIR THE BOTS.

YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT, MAN. NO OFFENSE.

NONE TAKEN, GIANT TURTLE. I'VE BEEN DRUGGED.

OH YEAH? ACTUALLY, I THINK I HAVE SOMETHING FOR THAT.

PUT IT IN HERE SOMEWHERE... OH, *HERE!*

FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL DIVISION. SUPPOSED TO BE A CURE-ALL FOR MIGRAINES AND HEAD COLDS.

I USE IT FOR, *UH*, HANGOVERS. SAME BALLPARK.

"SAME BALLPARK" IS DOING A LOT OF HEAVY LIFTING RIGHT NOW, BUT LET'S GIVE IT A SPIN.

THE GREAT SPIDER HAS ARISEN AND FOUND MY OFFERING. PLEASE, JOIN ME TOPSIDE.

ANYONE ELSE HEAR THAT CHOIR OF COYOTES? GUESS I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. THANKS, GIANT TURTLE!

WHOA...

TELL ME, IS IT A *WOLF* I FACE? OR MERELY A DOMESTICATED *LAPDOG?*

TOTO, I HAVE A FEELING WE'RE NOT IN MANHATTAN ANYMORE.

YOU WERE ONCE A PREY WORTHY OF MY SKILL--MY GIFT! BUT BEYOND HAS *PERVERTED* THAT HONOR.

YOU WERE A CREATURE UNBURDENED BY CAPTIVITY OR MODERNITY. BUT YOU HAVE BEEN *BROKEN.*

AND THIS *WEAKNESS* NOW REFLECTS ON *ME.*

TWO AMBUSHES IN ONE DAY IS A BIT MUCH, BUDDY. MAYBE WE TRY USING OUR WORDS?

KOOOMP

WOULD REALLY LOVE FOR THAT PILL TO KICK IN!

IT IS WHY I HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO THIS *MONUMENT* TO YOUR CORPORATE MASTERS.

THMP

THMP

DYING TO SEE YOU STICK THE LANDING ON THIS PREAMBLE.

TECHNOLOGY, PROFITS, "INNOVATION"--TOOLS TO *DISTORT* NATURE AND *DESTROY* THE SOUL OF MAN. WITH YOU AS THE UNKNOWING FOOL WIELDING THEM.

TELL ME THE FLAMES SPOKE THESE TRUTHS TO YOU, SPIDER.

WHFFF

BEYOND HAS THEIR ISSUES, BUT WHAT GIG *DOESN'T?* AT LEAST THEY DON'T *KILL* PEOPLE-- *WAAAH!*

KRACK!

GAAAGH!

THWP

YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR *MIND,* KRAVEN!

I AM WHAT I *ALWAYS* WAS! A *HUNTER!* AND I WILL MAKE SURE YOU'VE NO LONGER LOST YOUR WAY!

THWAP!

LEMME HELP GIVE YOU A LI'L DIRECTION THEN, BUDDY.

OH SHOOT, I GOT CRAZY SLAVIC HUNTER ALL OVER MY NEW BOOTS!

KROOMP

UGGGH!

IN THIS BELLY OF *TECHNOLOGICAL PERVERSION*, WE *BOTH* SHALL BE REMADE WHOLE. HERE I WILL AWAKEN THE GREAT ANIMAL IN YOU, SPIDER!

WELL, YOU DEFINITELY AWOKE SOME OLD NIGHTMARES.

KRAK

...BUT MY BOY DOUG, WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE A GIANT TURTLE, GAVE ME A PILL THAT SHUT DOWN YOUR WEIRDO DRUGS.

AND, WHILE I *AM* IN GREAT PAIN, I'M FINALLY FEELING NORMAL.

WHEREAS I'M SHOCKED YOU CAN EVEN *STAND* AFTER A FALL LIKE THAT.

MY SPIRIT IS NOT BROKEN SO EASILY, SPIDER! IT IS WHY I BROUGHT YOU TO THIS PLACE! FOR WHAT IT *REPRESENTS.*

A TOTEM TO HIGH-TECH CONVENIENCES THAT HAVE MADE MODERN MAN ***WEAK.*** THAT HAVE MADE ***YOU*** WEAK. THERE IS NO THRILL IN THE HUNT OF CAPTIVE ANIMALS. SO TELL ME, SPIDER...

...WHO HOLDS YOUR LEASH?!

WELL, I GUESS AT THE END OF THE DAY...

THOK

Pfft

...I'LL ALWAYS CHOOSE TO BE MY ***OWN*** SPIDER.

AND IF ALL IT TAKES TO BREAK YOUR GREAT WARRIOR SPIRIT IS A CUP OF ALGAE AND A CELL PHONE?

BAFT

THEN MAYBE YOU'RE NOT THE FEARSOME ***HUNTER*** YOU ***THOUGHT*** YOU WERE.

WAH-THUMP

SPLOSH

I...WILL... NOT..BE... TAMED...

...KRAVEN... WILL...REMAIN... UNBROKEN!

WAIT! DON'T!

CLICK

BARROOM!

MUCH AS I'D LIKE FOR THAT TO BE THE END OF THIS, THAT'S NOT THE LAST WE'LL SEE OF KRAVEN.

HEY, DOUG. IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, I GOT A REQUEST FOR YA, BUDDY.

I REALLY HOPE YOU CAN FIND A WAY TO CONTACT LAND 'CAUSE I'M GONNA TAKE A LI'L BREATHER.

MARCUS, IF YOU DON'T PICK UP, I SWEAR THEY'LL BURY ME *UNDER* THE PRISON FOR WHAT I'LL DO TO YOU--

YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS...

...BUT I LEFT MY PHONE ON SILENT.

BEN! WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!

TRIPPY, DRUG-TIPPED, POISON DARTS-- ***CANNOT*** RECOMMEND.

I WAS WORRIED ***SICK!*** I KNOW I SIGNED UP FOR SLEEPLESS NIGHTS, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT'D BE LIKE ***THIS.***

GOTTA TAKE THE GOOD WITH THE BAD, I GUESS? BESIDES, THE ONLY THING SCARIER THAN FACING DEATH IS PUTTING ***JANINE GODBE*** IN A BAD MOOD.

SO WHEN IT COMES TO CHOOSING BETWEEN THOSE TWO, I'M PICKING ***YOU*** EVERY TIME.

SORRY TO INTERRUPT.

BUT WE NEED TO GET YOU OUT OF THAT SUIT AND GET THOSE WOUNDS LOOKED AT.

I NEED MED POD SIX PREPPED. SUBJECT HAS MULTIPLE ABRASIONS AND CUTS WITH POSSIBLE CONCUSSION AND BLOOD POISONING.

YES, MA'AM.

WE'LL HAVE HIM RIGHT BACK TO YOU, JANINE.

IT MAY NOT *LOOK* LIKE IT, BUT I'M *VERY* GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE IN ONE PIECE, BEN. YOU HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE LOSING A LOT OF SLEEP.

FAMILY TRAIT.

GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT, MARCUS, JUST HOW MUCH IS MY LIFE ABOUT TO SUCK?

MAXINE WAS LESS THAN PLEASED THAT YOU WERE OFF THE GRID *WILLINGLY*. BUT I WAS ABLE TO, *UH*, SPIN THE DETAILS A BIT ONCE KRAVEN BECAME KNOWN.

YOU DID THAT FOR *ME?* DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD IT *IN* YOU, MARCUS. I KNOW HOW TERRIFYING SHE CAN BE.

I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY THEY PAY ME GOOD MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR BAD SLEEP.

I HAVE TO MAKE A CALL, BUT WE'LL CONTINUE ONCE YOU'RE PATCHED UP. I THINK YOU'VE EARNED THE WEEK OFF.

THEY'VE BEEN USING THOSE PILLS TO DO *WHAT?!*

UH, WAS I NOT SUPPOSED TO SAY THAT?

YES, MS. DANGER. HE'S BEING EXAMINED RIGHT NOW. LOOKS A LITTLE WORSE FOR WEAR, BUT IT'S MOSTLY COSMETIC. I'M THINKING ABOUT GIVING HIM THE REST OF THE WEEK OFF. HE'S ***EARNED*** IT.

*CURIOUS DISCIPLINARY APPROACH, MR. MOMPLAISIR. USUALLY WHEN A DOG MISBEHAVES, YOU **TIGHTEN** THE LEASH.*

BEYOND MIGHT HAVE INVESTED A LOT OF RESOURCES INTO THIS PROJECT, BUT IF WE NEED A HARD REBOOT, WE CAN CERTAINLY DO THAT.

HOWEVER, THAT'S THE NUCLEAR OPTION, AND PEOPLE MIGHT THINK ME A TOUCH ***DRAMATIC.***

I, *UH,* APPRECIATE THAT, MA'AM--

*OF COURSE, I **DON'T** CARE WHAT PEOPLE THINK. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.*

CLICK!

PARDON ME. I DON'T LIKE TO HANDLE THE BUSINESS OF DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS IN FRONT OF ONE ANOTHER BUT THIS WAS A PARTICULARLY ***INTERESTING*** ISSUE.

WE UNDERSTAND, MS. DANGER.

PICKING UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF...

WITH THIS CEASE AND DESIST, WE'LL MAKE SURE THIS "BROOKLYN SPIDER-MAN" IS TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE HE CAN EVEN *THINK* OF BECOMING AN ISSUE FOR YOU AND BEYOND.

CEASE AND DESIST

MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN.

West 45th St

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY PETER'S NOT GETTING ANY BETTER, AND I WANT TO KNOW *WHY*, DR. BURDICK.

WAIT, MRS. PARKER? H-HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER?!

I HAD TO KEEP TRACK OF A TEENAGE BOY IN THE MIDDLE OF QUEENS. IF *MAY PARKER* NEEDS TO *FIND* SOMETHING, SHE *FINDS* IT. WHICH IS WHY I NEED *YOU* TO FIND SOME *ANSWERS*.

*MA'AM, AS I EXPLAINED, YOUR NEPHEW HAS A VERY SPECIFIC ILLNESS BROUGHT ON BY A **VERY** SPECIFIC SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WE DON'T HAVE THE DATA FOR.*

WITHOUT THAT INFORMATION, WE'RE FLYING BLIND.

IF "DATA" IS WHAT YOU NEED, THEN YOU BETTER FIND SOME GOGGLES 'CAUSE YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE UP TO YOUR EYEBALLS IN IT!

AND HOW DO YOU PLAN ON DOING THAT?

HELLO? MRS. PARKER--

CLICK!

THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW, MAY...

I MUST SAY, MAY. WHILE YOU'RE AS *BREATHTAKING* AS EVER, YOU CALLING ME WAS ALMOST AS BIG OF A SURPRISE...

...AS ME AGREEING TO COME.

OTTO OCTAVIUS, STILL AS CHARMING AS I REMEMBER.

TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE--

I'LL BE *DIRECT*, OTTO. I'VE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU'RE *CAPABLE* OF, BUT I NEED YOUR HELP.

I KNOW WE'VE HAD OUR... ISSUES. YOU MAY NOT BE PREPARED FOR THE THINGS I MIGHT DO IF YOU ASK FOR MY AID.

I WANT YOUR *BRAIN*, NOT YOUR BRAWN. SOMETHING HAS MADE MY PETER VERY SICK, AND NONE OF HIS DOCTORS HAVE ANY IDEA HOW TO HELP. THEY JUST DON'T HAVE THE *INFORMATION*.

MY TRAIL HAS RUN COLD, AND I NEED A VERY SPECIFIC *HEAT* THAT ONLY *YOU* CAN GIVE ME. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME, OTTO? CAN YOU *HELP* ME?

I, *UH*, BELIEVE I CAN DO THAT.

BUT BEFORE WE START, I'LL NEED TO GRAB MY *WORK SUIT*.

BEYOND CORPORATION #80.BEY

WHEN YOU'VE TAKEN AS MANY SPINS AROUND THE SUN AS I HAVE, THINGS ALMOST SEEM TO GAIN A RHYTHM. IT'S LIKE A CYCLE.

JUST AS SURE AS THE SUN WILL RISE, MY NEPHEW PETER PARKER GETS HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE. A BROKEN BONE HERE. A BRUISE THERE.

WHEREVER HE GOES, TROUBLE JUST LOVES TO FOLLOW. BUT THIS TIME, IT'S DIFFERENT. IT ***FEELS*** SO DIFFERENT, PETER. I JUST NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND ***THAT'S*** WHY I'M DOING THIS.

YOU GOT CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING SO BAD THESE DOCTORS ARE FLYING AS BLIND AS I AM. BUT I'M GOING TO ***FIX*** THAT. BECAUSE I'M ***AUNT MAY,*** AND FIXIN' THINGS IS WHAT I DO!

BUT I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU ***FIRST...***

...I NEED YOU TO ***FORGIVE*** ME. I'VE BEEN BACKED INTO A HECK OF A CORNER, AND IT'S LOOKING LIKE I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THINGS INTO MY OWN HANDS...

...WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM AN *OLD FRIEND.*

YOU *HUMBLE* ME WITH YOUR BEAUTY, AS USUAL, MAY.

OTTO OCTAVIUS. NICE TO SEE YOU STILL KEEP A GENTLEMAN'S AIRS ABOUT YOU. ALTHOUGH THE SUNGLASSES AT NIGHT IS CERTAINLY A *CHOICE.*

WHEN IN THE PRESENCE OF SOMEONE AS *RADIANT* AS THE SUN, I THOUGHT IT BEST TO PROTECT MY EYES.

WHICH DOES REMIND ME...

IT'LL NEVER SHINE AS BRIGHTLY AS YOU, BUT PERHAPS ITS DULLNESS WILL BE A NICE ACCENT.

OTTO, I CAN'T...

HOW CAN A MAN WITH SUCH *AWFUL* TASTE IN HAIRCUTS HAVE SUCH A SOLID LOCK ON STYLE?

BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY IT'LL LOOK MUCH BETTER ON YOU THAN ON ME, AND I HAVE THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT.

OH, I *BELIEVE* YOU.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL, OTTO. THANK YOU.

IT'S MY ABSOLUTE PLEASURE--

NOW, LET'S GET TO IT!

UH, Y-YES, LET US.

SO, IS THAT SOME KIND OF SPECIAL iPAD THAT'LL HELP PETER?

'TIS NO MERE *PAD*, MY DEAR MAY. IT IS AN OMNIDIRECTIONAL SCANNER OF MY OWN CREATION! WHICH, OF COURSE, MAKES IT *VASTLY SUPERIOR*. IT WILL COLLECT FIELD SAMPLES TO PROCESS LATER.

THAT WAS GOING TO BE MY SECOND GUESS.

THIS PLACE IS A DISASTER. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF *TERROR* PETER WAS FEELING...

WHAT *ANIMALS* WOULD HAVE SUCH LACK OF RESPECT FOR THE SCARED GROUNDS OF ACADEMIA? TO SCAR THE HALLOWED QUAD OF MY ALMA MATER IS TO SCAR THE HUMAN SOUL.

YEAH, WHO COULD EVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT, OTTO?

IS THIS A PIECE OF CLOTHING? LOOKS PRETTY OUT-THERE EVEN BY YOUNG KIDS' STANDARDS.

I DARE SAY YOU'VE FOUND SOMETHING OF *GREAT IMPORTANCE*, MAY. NOT THAT I HAD ANY DOUBTS. LET ME TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.

THESE ARE TOO BADLY DECAYED TO GET A FULL FIELD READING. WE MUST COLLECT THIS SAMPLE FOR FURTHER STUDY.

MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK?

I'VE NEVER BEEN TOO KEEN ON THE SUPER HEROES OR SCIENCE STUFF PETER'S ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE DRAWN TO, SO I'M THANKFUL YOU CAME, OTTO.

BUT YOU DO HAVE AN AFFINITY FOR DRAWING THINGS TO YOU. I'M SIMPLY GLAD THAT I AM THAT THING.

OTTO'S SAFE HOUSE #32B.
Location Unknown.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
YOUR TASTE REMAINS IMPECCABLE, OTTO.
HIGH PRAISE. LAMBRUSCO?
I'D LIKE TO REMIND YOU WE'RE HERE FOR BUSINESS, OTTO.
"BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE" IS A POOR TURN OF PHRASE, IF YOU ASK ME. IN MY EXPERIENCE, I'VE FOUND IT BEST WHEN THE ORDER IS REVERSED.
IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET A TASTE OF MY WORLD, MAY. WHY NOT AT LEAST ENJOY YOUR FIRST SIPS?
YOU CERTAINLY KNOW YOUR SALES PITCH.
BUT I DON'T CARE HOW FANCY A BOTTLE OF WINE YOU BREAK OUT, IT'S NOT GOING TO MAKE ME STOP REMINDING YOU WHY WE'RE HERE.
I HAVE AN EXTENSIVE COLLECTION THAT WOULD LIKE TO *CHALLENGE* THAT, BUT I FEAR YOU'RE RIGHT. THE ANALYSIS SHOULD BE FINISHED SHORTLY, BUT I'D JUST LIKE TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE PREPARED TO SEE THIS WHOLE THING THROUGH.

I CALLED MY OCTOPUS-THEMED, EVIL GENIUS-EX TO DIG AROUND AT A COLLEGE UNDER COVER OF NIGHT. YOU THINK I'M ***NOT*** READY TO GET WEIRD, OTTO?

I DON'T DOUBT YOUR TENACITY TO ***"GET WEIRD."*** I'M SIMPLY ASKING THAT YOU REMEMBER ***MINE.***

I MAKE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE MAN THAT I AM OR WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF. IF WE EMBARK ON THIS JOURNEY TOGETHER, I WILL DO MY BEST TO BE THE PERSON YOU ***THINK*** I AM. BUT IF PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, I WILL DO ***WHATEVER*** I MUST TO PROTECT YOU AND MYSELF.

YOU BETTER THAN ***ANYONE*** SHOULD KNOW I'M MORE THAN CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF MYSELF, OTTO. I DON'T NEED SOME BIG STRONG MAN TO COME SWEEP ME UP IN HIS ARMS THE SECOND THINGS GET DICEY.

WHAT ABOUT A MAN WITH EIGHT ARMS?

BEEP!

INTERESTING. IT APPEARS THERE WERE FAINT TRACES OF A RARE AIR POLLUTANT FOUND ONLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT. AS WELL AS A VERY ***SPECIFIC*** TYPE OF RADIATION. THIS IS GOOD TO KNOW.

GOOD BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE THE PERSON WITH THE WEIRD CLOTHES WILL BE?

TEST DONE

UNCERTAIN. BUT WE MUST MAKE HASTE NONETHELESS. I CAN AFFORD YOU MANY LUXURIES BUT ***TIME*** IS NOT AMONG THEM.

WOW. HAS THE SUIT BEEN THERE THIS WHOLE TIME? CAN'T BELIEVE I *MISSED* THAT.

I'VE BEEN TOLD MY HOSTING ABILITIES ARE *NIGH-HYPNOTIC*. I'M NOT BRAGGING, JUST PASSING ALONG WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD.

CLICK CLACK

YOU CERTAINLY CLEAN UP NICE, BUT I HOPE YOU DON'T PLAN ON HAVING TO MAKE MUCH USE OUT OF THAT.

MY SUIT'S OFFENSE SYSTEMS ARE IMPECCABLE, *OBVIOUSLY*. BUT THEY ALSO OFFER A ROBUST SUITE OF SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE-COLLECTION OPTIONS.

AND THE OMNI-SENSOR WILL ALLOW ME TO CREATE A PERFECT COPY OF THE RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS ONCE WE FIND ITS SOURCE.

I THOUGHT IT WAS CALLED THE OMNI-SCANNER?

TEST DONE

THAT'S A SCANNER. A *SENSOR* IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT BALL GAME, MY DEAR.

RIGHT. WELL, WE HAVE OUR FIRST LEAD, I THINK IT'S TIME WE CRACKED THIS THING WIDE OPEN. I HOPE YOU STILL REMEMBER HOW TO USE THAT SUIT.

WORRY NOT. I'M STILL *QUITE DEXTEROUS*.

THIS IS THE LOCATION. IT'S *OBVIOUSLY* A FRONT FOR A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION. WE MUST MAKE THEM PAY FOR THEIR CRIMES AGAINST YOUR NEPHEW!

I KINDA THINK IT'S JUST A NORMAL APARTMENT BUILDING. LET'S TAKE A LOOK.

THEIR SILENCE IS BUT A TAUNT. WE MUST *BURST* IN AND TAKE WHAT IS OURS!

MAYBE LET'S TRY A *LIGHTER* TOUCH FIRST, OTTO.

RING!

UH, H-HELLO?

HI, THERE. TO WHOM AM I SPEAKING?

UH, ERIC.

HI, ERIC. I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD TROUBLE YOU AND TAKE A LOOK AT ONE OF YOUR ROOMS?

OFFICE HOURS ARE BETWEEN NINE AND FIVE, MONDAY THROUGH FRI--

ENOUGH OF YOUR GAMES, ERIC!

WHO IS THAT?!

I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR MY HUSBAND. HE HAS BEEN VERY *POORLY TRAINED*. WE WOULDN'T BE LONG, FIFTEEN MINUTES TOPS. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

...

WOW, YOU REMIND ME OF MY MOM.

FINE, I'LL BUZZ YOU UP.

LIKE I SAID, ***FOUR WEIRDOS*** WERE THE PREVIOUS RENTERS, BUT I THINK THEY RAN INTO SOME TROUBLE WITH THE LAW.

FOUR? DID YOU GET A NAME.

SIMON. I MADE A "SIMON SAYS" JOKE, AND HE DIDN'T THINK IT WAS FUNNY AT ALL.

OF COURSE. RADIATION, POISON GAS, SIMON. IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE ***U-FOES.***

THE U-WHOS?

LISTEN CLOSELY, YOUNG ERIC. WHEN DID THE POLICE--?

WASN'T NO POLICE. WAS A THING CALLED ***INFINITE SOLUTIONS.*** TOOK 'EM AND CLEANED THE PLACE BETTER THAN EVER. (THOUGH MY COUSIN BARRY UNDID ALL THAT AFTER CRASHING HERE A FEW DAYS.) ANYWAY, THEY DID IT PRO BONER!

EXCUSE ME?

YOU KNOW, PRO BONER. LIKE WHEN YOU DO STUFF FOR FREE OR WHATEVER.

IT'S ***PRO BONO,*** YOU CAVEMAN--

OTTO, I THINK I HAVE SOMETHING?

CARPET LOOKS FUNNY. I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT SCIENCE BUT I KNOW THINGS LOOKING FUNNY IS A CLUE.

FROM MY EXPERIENCE, THAT IS INDEED OFTEN THE CASE.

MIGHT I TAKE A LOOK WITH THE SCANNER?

THE *OMNI-* SCANNER.

HEH, YES, THE ***OMNI-SCANNER.*** THIS DISCOLORATION IS MOST LIKELY SOME BYPRODUCT OF ***X-RAY'S*** RADIATION.

THIS ***MUST*** HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH PETER'S ILLNESS. WE COULD USE THE OMNI-SCANNER TO RE-CREATE THIS SPECIFIC RADIATION SIGNATURE.

COULD ***ANYONE*** RE-CREATE IT? LIKE PETER'S DOCTORS, FOR INSTANCE?

WE WOULD NEED A LARGER QUANTITY, SO THAT IT COULD BE COPIED IN A LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT MULTIPLE TIMES.

OH ***SHOOT***, I CANT SEEM TO GET THIS THING TO WORK. I TOLD YOU I'M NO GOOD WITH THIS SUPER HERO STUFF, OTTO!

PERHAPS YOU NEED A ***LIGHTER*** TOUCH, MY DEAR.

YOU MUST REMEMBER TO FIRST ***COLLATE*** THE IONIZED POLARITY BEFORE A SAMPLE CAN BE COLLECTED.

IT'S TURNED ON!

INDEED. BUT AS I FEARED, THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TO COLLECT JUST YET. PERHAPS THIS CLEANING COMPANY WOULD HAVE SOME ANSWERS.

IF I GIVE YOU THEIR BUSINESS CARD, WILL YOU GUYS DO THIS ***LITERALLY ANYWHERE ELSE?***

SO WHAT IS INFINITE SOLUTIONS?

IT WOULD SEEM THEY ARE *ALSO* CHARGED WITH HOLDING SUPER-POWERED INDIVIDUALS AWAITING TRIAL OR TRANSFER TO PRISON. THOUGH ONLY A *FOOL* WOULD THINK THAT THE TRUTH.

YOU MAKE QUITE THE PARTNER, OTTO. IT MAKES ME MISS THE *OLD DAYS.*

GULP WE'RE HERE.

THIS GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE HAS EATEN AWAY AT ENOUGH OF OUR NIGHT. WE *WILL* COLLECT THE INFORMATION WE NEED TO HELP PETER.

OKAY, OTTO...

...BUT I'M STILL GOING TO DO THE TALKING ON THIS ONE.

WE ARE ABOUT TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD, MAY. I THINK IT WISE TO READY OURSELVES.

WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTING THE ONES I LOVE, I THINK IT'S *THESE* GUYS WHO SHOULD GET READY.

HA! I WOULD AGREE.

THIS LOOKS FAR TOO NORMAL TO *BE* NORMAL.

I KNOW I'M NOT HIP ON THIS HERO STUFF, BUT THIS LOOKS PRETTY SAFE, OTTO.

IT IS WHEN WE FEEL THE MOST SAFE THAT WE ARE IN THE MOST DANGER.

THAT'S CERTAINLY... A *TAKE.*

HELLO, CAN I HELP YOU?

HELLO, SONNY. WE WERE TRYING TO SPEAK WITH OUR GRANDSON, BUT THE NICE FOLKS DOWN AT THE JAILHOUSE TOLD US HE'D BEEN TAKEN HERE.

WE ARE QUITE DEVASTATED BY HIS ABSENCE. WE WISH TO EASE HIS MIND WITH COOKIES. LOTS OF COOKIES THAT WE BAKED WITH LOVE.

LOTS OF LOVE.

UH, I'M SURE YOUR GRANDSON WOULD LOVE THAT. KNOW A LOT OF THE GUYS IN THERE DO, BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT.

NO UNSCHEDULED VISITORS

VISITATIONS BY ONLINE APPOINTMENT ONLY. FOR SECURITY REASONS, YOU KNOW.

OH, *PINEAPPLES.* PERHAPS THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE BACK YOU COULD TALK TO--

NO SCHEDULED

TAP

TAP

I FEAR YOUR METHODOLOGY NOT WORKING PROVES MY POINT ABOUT THIS PLACE. IT IS TIME YOU FOLLOW ***MY*** LEAD.

I DON'T WANT YOU ***HURTING*** PEOPLE, OTTO! I JUST NEED TO THINK SOMETHING ELSE UP.

YES. ***UP*** IS JUST WHAT I HAD IN MIND.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN--? WOOP!

IF YOU DROP ME I WILL COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU SO HARD OTTO OCTAVIUS! I SWEAR I WILL!

I'M A SCIENTIST, MAY. I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS.

WELL, MOSTLY.

KRAK!

NOW THAT WE'VE TAKEN THE ACTIVE MEASURE, WE WILL BE SHORT ON TIME. MY CALCULATIONS TELL ME THAT WE WILL NEED TO COLLECT SAMPLES FROM X-RAY *AND* HIS COHORT VAPOR IF WE WISH TO SAVE YOUR NEPHEW.

OH DEAR--

THIS ALL LOOKS PRETTY *INTENSE* FOR A REHABILITATION CENTER. NOT LOVING THE IDEA OF WHAT WE MAY FIND DEEPER INSIDE.

THEN WE MUST BE *EFFICIENT*. THE *BOTH* OF US MUST BE PREPARED TO GET OUR HANDS DIRTY IF PETER IS TO BE SAVED.

I--I UNDERSTAND. I CAN DO THAT. BUT IN MY *OWN* WAY.

THEN LET US MOVE.

THE OMNI-SCANNER IS REDLINING. OUR SAMPLES ARE NEAR. ONE TO THE WEST AND ONE TO THE NORTH.

THOSE "SAMPLES" HAVE NAMES, OTTO. X-RAY ISN'T MUCH OF A NAME BUT HE DOES *HAVE* ONE. REMEMBER, THESE ARE *PEOPLE*.

PEOPLE THAT HAVE MADE THEIR BED AND NOW LIE IN IT--

LOOK OUT!

THOSE ARE SOME NASTY LOOKING FELLOWS.

I HAVE A FEELING THIS PLACE ***BREEDS*** "NASTY" WHICH IS WHY WE MUST BE DONE WITH THIS QUICKLY.

VAPOR IS LIKELY TO THE WEST. I IMAGINE HER ***SPECIALIZED*** CONTAINMENT REQUIRES A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF POWER, AND IT IS CLOSEST TO THIS SITE'S POWER SOURCE.

WHICH MEANS X-RAY MUST BE JUST AROUND THE...

YOU TRYNNA PULL A FAST one ON ME, KID?!

...CORNER?!

IF YOU SAY YOU'RE GONNA ***SPOT*** SOMEBODY, YOU GOTTA BE USING PROPER FORM!

YOU COULD REALLY GET SOMEONE HURT WITH BAD TECHNIQUE, BRO.

S-SORRY, GUYS. I'LL DO BETTER NEXT SET. PROMISE.

THAT'S ALL WE WANT TO HEAR, WES.

I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE BIT, OTTO. THERE ARE A *LOT* OF PEOPLE DOWN THERE.

THIS *IS* UNEXPECTED. NOT AN INSURMOUNTABLE CHANGE IN COURSE, BUT THE PLAN WILL NEED ADJUSTING. THIS ASSAULT MUST NOW BE *TWO-PRONGED--*

HEY!

STOP RIGHT THERE!

HE'S GONNA SHOOT!

CRETIN!

BANG!

WHACK!

OOOFH!

YOU DARE?!

OTTO, DON'T!

WHAT THE?!

SHOTS FIRED! SHOTS FIRED! SHOTS FIRED!

ESCORT THE PRISONERS BACK TO THEIR CELLS!

WE HAVE LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, BUT I WILL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!

TAKE THIS AND THE GUARD'S KEYCARD AND GO TO VAPOR'S CELL TO COLLECT HER SAMPLE. THEN MEET ME AT THE CENTRAL SECURITY ROOM.

IF I DON'T FIND YOU *THERE*, I WILL FIND YOU *ELSEWHERE*.

CENTRAL SECURITY ROOM. GOOD LUCK, OTTO.

LUCK IS LIKE A GHOST TO A SCIENTIST, MAY. BUT I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL. I WANT TO BE ABLE TO THANK YOU *PROPERLY* AFTER WE FINISH ALL THIS.

IF THAT IS THE CASE...

...I *WILL NOT* KEEP YOU LONG!

WOULD HATE FOR YOU TO LET DOWN THE REST OF THE ANCIENTS AT THE NURSING HOME.

TURN OFF MY DAMPENERS IF YOU EVER WANT THAT FIFTY BUCKS I OWE YOU, HARRY.

DON'T MAKE ME REGRET IT.

GAAH!

YEEGH!

NOW DON'T GO MAKING PROMISES YOU CAN'T KEEP, GRANDPA.

I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU *ALL NIGHT*.

YOU HEAR THAT, FELLAS?! DOC OCK WANTS MY AUTOGRAPH! MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY!

GAAH!

SORRY, HARRY.

YOU'RE *FAST* FOR A CHUNKER, DOC.

I'M NOT HERE FOR AN AUTOGRAPH.

I'VE COME TO COLLECT SOMETHING OF *ACTUAL* VALUE, BOY.

WHO YOU CALLING *BOY?* I'M A GROWN MAN-- *HEY!*

GONNA TAKE MORE THAN SOME FANCY METAL ARMS TO TAKE ME OUT, DOC.

IN YOUR WEAKENED STATE, I FIND THAT HIGHLY *DOUBTFUL.*

WHAM

BLAM

HRM, I GROW TIRED OF THESE GAMES!

FWAMM

THEN LET ME HAVE THE PLEASURE OF *ENDIN'* IT FOR YA, DOC!

MEDIOCRE. HARD TO BELIEVE SUCH A LESSER TALENT WOULD THINK HE WAS CAPABLE OF TAKING ON *SPIDER-MAN*. WHAT IS YOUR CONNECTION TO THIS PLACE?

WOOOMMMM

AGGH!

ONE MOMENT, WE'RE GETTING CREAMED BY THE HULK,* AND THE NEXT WE'RE WAKING UP HERE IN SOME FANCY MED-CENTER.

THEY TELL US WE'RE WAITIN' FOR PROCESSING AND TRANSPO' TO THE RAFT.

WHY WASTE RESOURCES ON YOU LOT?

DIDN'T ASK. DIDN'T CARE. BROKE OUT FIRST CHANCE WE GOT. GOT A JOB QUICK, BUT IT INVOLVED TWO DAMN SPIDER-MEN. AND THAT WAS A COUPLE TOO MANY. NOW WE'RE WAITING FOR TRANSPO' AGAIN.

*IN IMMORTAL HULK #46 --MORTAL NICK

YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS THOUGHT SPIDEY WAS BIT OF A SCHLUB BUT THIS *OTHER* GUY WAS LIKE SPIDER-MAN *2.0!* HAD SOME OF THE BEST TECH I'VE EVER SEEN. *SUPERIOR* IN EVERY WAY--

UGGGH!

WHAT WOULD *YOU* KNOW OF SUPERIORITY?!

LET THIS BE A REMINDER THAT I STAND SUPERIOR *ABOVE ALL!* TO THINK VILLAINS OF SUCH *LOW CALIBER* WOULD REQUIRE AN INTERVENTION FROM SPIDER-MAN?

I FIND THAT INFORMATION TO BE *MOST* INTERESTING.

WHA-WHA! WHACK!

OOOOFH!

THAT ALL YOU...GOT... GRAMPS?

KNNN-CH

UGGGH...

DOC OCK, PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR!

ALL OF THEM!

YOU DOLTS SEEM TO HAVE MISTAKEN ME FOR ONE AS *INEXPERIENCED* AS *HE*. LET ME DO YOU THE HONOR...

...OF *CORRECTING* THAT ERROR!

BLAM BLAM

SOMEONE'S HAVING FUN.

I HATE TO BE A BOTHER, BUT ARE YOU *VAPOR?*

WHAT *GAVE IT AWAY?* YOU'RE A LONG WAY FROM THE BINGO HALL, GRANDMA.

THEY USUALLY CLOSE UP SHOP AROUND SEVEN. I'M THE ONLY OLD BAT WITH ENOUGH ENERGY TO STILL HANG PAST SUNDOWN.

HEH, I *LIKE* YOU, LADY. YOU MUST BE ONE TOUGH BIRD IF YOU MANAGED TO SLIP *THIS DEEP* PAST SECURITY. THAT ALSO MUST MEAN YOU *WANT* SOMETHING.

YEAH, THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT, VAPOR--

CALL ME ANN.

OKAY, *ANN.* I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK. I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU.

WHAT *KIND* OF SOMETHING?

THIS IS MY NEPHEW, PETER. HE DRIVES ME *ABSOLUTELY CRAZY* SOMETIMES, BUT I LOVE HIM MORE THAN THE WORLD. HE'S REALLY ALL I HAVE.

HE IS, WAS, A STUDENT AT EMPIRE UNIVERSITY, AND A COUPLE OF WEEKS BACK, HE GOT ROUGHED UP PRETTY BAD IN THE BIG FIGHT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAD WITH THE SPIDER-MEN.

I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR NEPHEW, LADY. BUT I'M A *BAD GUY,* REMEMBER? COMES WITH THE JOB.

WELL, I DON'T THINK YOU'RE A BAD *PERSON,* ANN. DEEP DOWN. I THINK YOU'VE JUST MADE MISTAKES. LORD KNOWS *I* HAVE.

BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW REAL PEOPLE GET CAUGHT IN THE *CROSSFIRE* OF THOSE MISTAKES, AND PETER WAS ONE OF THEM. I'M JUST HERE TO *HELP* HIM.

YOU SEE, PETER'S DOCTORS CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM. THEY USE A BUNCH OF BIG WORDS THAT ALL END UP MEANING "WE DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION TO HELP." BUT YOU *DO*.

I RECENTLY SPENT A FEW NIGHTS IN THE E.R. COURTESY OF THE ANGRIEST AVENGER, SO I CAN RELATE. SORTA. NOT SURE I HAVE THE INFO TO HELP, THOUGH.

BLEEP

YOU *DO*. INSIDE. I NEED A SAMPLE OF *YOU*. SOMETHING I CAN GIVE TO THE DOCTORS SO THEY CAN MAKE A CURE. GIVE ME THAT, AND I CAN BE ON MY WAY. NO MUSS, NO FUSS.

YOU'RE SOMETHING ELSE, GRANDMA! LOVE IT! YEAH, I THINK I CAN HELP. NOT LIKE I GOT ANYTHING GOING ON.

WOW, WAS THAT IT? DIDN'T FEEL A THING.

THAT'S IT.

BITZ!

THANK YOU, ANN. TRULY. I CANNOT EXPRESS HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO ME. I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT.

Y-YEAH, SURE. WHATEVER. JUST DON'T GO TELLING ANYBODY. I CAN'T HAVE FOLKS THINKING THE U-FOES GOT SOFT.

I'LL TELL 'EM YOU FOUGHT LIKE HELL, SWEETIE...

"...EVERY STEP OF THE WAY."

WORMS! THIS INFINITE SOLUTIONS IS A SHAM! WHAT OTHER SECRETS DO YOU HIDE? WHAT MASTERS PULL YOUR STRINGS? YOU WILL TELL ME!

CAN'T WAIT TO LOCK YOU IN THERE WITH THE REST OF THE FREAKS-- GACK!

SILENCE! THIS PLACE REEKS OF SECRETS AND LIES, AND I WILL FIND HOW DEEP THEY GO! PRAY THAT I FIND THEM QUICK.

YOU'RE... CRAZY...DOC... JUST ANOTHER... MURDERER...

LET'S FOLLOW THIS TRAIL. ONE SHELL COMPANY TO ANOTHER, TO ANOTHER TO...

NO...

YOU CALLED ME A MURDERER BUT I AM SOMETHING MUCH WORSE.

NO-- GUR-- GURK--

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE WORKING FOR? WHAT THEY STOLE FROM ME?

DO YOU KNOW WHY I'M ABOUT TO SKIN YOU ALIVE?!

THIS WASN'T PART OF OUR PLAN, OTTO! YOU PROMISED ME! YOU PROMISED!

MAY, I--

LET THESE MEN GO!

LET THAT MAN GO, OTTO!

FORGIVE ME, MAY. BUT I TOLD YOU THIS IS THE MAN I'VE ALWAYS BEEN. MY NATURE. I WAS DOING WHAT I MUST TO HELP YOU.

YOU STOPPED *HELPING* THE MOMENT YOU FOUND SOMETHING ON THAT COMPUTER.

I CAN EXPLAIN. THERE IS INFORMATION, PLANS THEY'VE ENTANGLED ME IN--

THERE'S *ALWAYS* A PLAN. OR A SCHEME. SOME PLOT. WHATEVER YOU CAN USE TO JUSTIFY GOING ON THE WARPATH. BUT I'M TELLING YOU, *NO MORE*. YOU CAN HAVE YOUR OMNI-SENSOR BACK. I WANT NO MORE PART IN THIS. I'LL FIND *ANOTHER* WAY TO HELP PETER.

I WAS A *FOOL* TO THINK YOU COULD CHANGE, OTTO. AND AN EVEN *BIGGER* FOOL FOR TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT I DIDN'T KNOW FROM THE START.

ONCE AGAIN, YOU ARE RIGHT, MY DEAR. I AM A CREATURE OF HABIT AND SIMPLE DESIGN. PERHAPS IT IS MY NATURE.

FOR ME, THE ENDS *JUSTIFY* THE MEANS, MAY. I WAS GIVEN A *POWER*, AND I BELIEVE IT IS MY DUTY TO USE IT.

THEN YOU HAVE USED THAT POWER *IRRESPONSIBLY*. GOODBYE, OTTO. I *WON'T* BE SEEING YOU AGAIN.

SOMETIME LATER...

I KNOW I SCREWED THIS WHOLE THING UP, PETER. BUT I JUST *COULDN'T* BRING MYSELF TO WALK FURTHER DOWN THAT PATH.

EVEN IF IT MEANS STARTING FROM SCRATCH, I'LL GET YOU BACK ON YOUR FEET. I'LL FIND A WAY. ALTHOUGH I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE I'D NEED A...

BUZZ BUZZ

Sunday!

...MIRACLE.

HELLO? MAY PARKER, HERE.

MRS. PARKER, THIS IS DR. BURDICK. I'M CALLING YOU IN REGARDS TO PETER'S TREATMENT.

USING A PHONE CALL TO TELL ME YOU'VE MADE NO PROGRESS *ISN'T* GOING TO STOP ME FROM COMING IN.

QUITE THE OPPOSITE. THERE'S BEEN A ***BREAKTHROUGH.*** SOME ANONYMOUS DELIVERY WAS MADE CONTAINING, WELL, A RATHER COMPREHENSIVE CACHE OF DATA DETAILING THE COMPOUNDS INVOLVED IN PETER'S ILLNESS.

LONG STORY SHORT, WE'VE STARTED A NEW TREATMENT PLAN.

WHAT?!

WHY DON'T YOU COME DOWN AND SEE FOR YOURSELF?

OTTO, I HATE THAT YOU DOING THE RIGHT THING *STILL* MAKES ME MAD.

YOU GOT HERE SO FAST!

DR. BURDICK, I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING...

HERE WE GO...

THANK YOU AND YOUR TEAM FOR HELPING PETER.

UH, OUR PLEASURE.

YOU'VE WALKED THROUGH THIS DOOR A HUNDRED TIMES. YOU'RE STRONG, MAY. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN SEE ON THE OTHER SIDE THAT CAN SHOCK YOU.

I'LL BE DAMNED...

PETER?!

HEY, AUNT MAY. YOU GET THE NUMBER OF THE BUS THAT HIT ME?

YOU CRAZY BOY. YOU HAD US WORRIED *HALF TO DEATH!* I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE BACK. WE'RE *ALL* SO HAPPY. I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU TOO, MAY.

ONE THING. COULD YOU EASE UP A LITTLE BIT? THIS HUG GETS ANY TIGHTER AND I'M GOING RIGHT BACK IN THAT COMA.

"AND I THINK YOU'VE SEEN ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR ONE DAY."

BLAM! BLAM!

THAT DOOR'S NOT GONNA HOLD!

HOLD YOUR POSITION!

NOT AGAIN! BE BRAVE, BASIR! BE BRAVE!

WE NEED BACKUP, QUICK--

THWACK!

KA-KRAK!

UGGGH!

UGGGH!

WILL YOU FIGHT LIKE THE OTHERS, OR WILL YOU GIVE ME WHAT I SEEK?

PLEASE, JUST TAKE THE ACCESS CARD. IT'LL LET YOU INTO ALL OF THE SYSTEMS. ***JUST DON'T HURT ME!***

AH, I SEE YOU HAVE LEARNED THE VALUE OF ***SELF-PRESERVATION.*** GOOD DOG.

TH-THANK YOU--

TO THINK YOUR MASTERS WOULD TRY TO ELUDE MY NOTICE BY CREATING A SHELL COMPANY CALLED INFINITE SOLUTIONS. HUBRIS.

DID YOU KNOW YOU WORK FOR ***THE BEYOND CORPORATION?***

AT YOUR OTHER SITE, I GOT A TASTE OF YOUR EMPLOYER'S GLUTTONOUS AMBITIONS. IF LEFT ***UNCHECKED,*** THEY WILL DEVOUR ALL THAT LAYS BEFORE THEM.

BUT WHAT WILL I FIND WITH THIS NEW ACCESS?

WAAAH!

KRASH!

NO. SPIDER-MAN AND PARKER COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THAT ***STUPID.*** THEY ***ALLOWED*** BEYOND TO PURCHASE THE REMAINS OF PARKER INDUSTRIES?!

THE COMPANY I BUILT?!?!

YOUR SPIDER-MAN ISN'T SUPERIOR. HE IS A ***COPY*** OF THE WORK I DID. AND OTTO OCTAVIUS DOESN'T STAND FOR ***PLAGIARISM.***

I WILL REMIND THEM THAT IT IS *I* WHO WILL ALWAYS REMAIN THE **SUPERIOR.**

YOU ARE NOT SPIDER-MAN!!!

IT CALLS ITSELF *RHIZOME.*

IT'S DESTROYED THREE BUILDINGS IN BROOKLYN ALREADY. WE DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT IT IS, OR WHERE IT CAME FROM.

WE *DO* KNOW THAT IT'S BULLETPROOF, AND ITS FISTS HIT LIKE THE THING'S.

AND BEYOND WANTS *ME* TO STAND IN FRONT OF SAID FISTS?

GUESS IT CAN'T BE WORSE THAN THESE SMOOTHIES YOU GUYS ARE FEEDING ME.

IDEALLY YOU'D, YOU KNOW, MOVE AROUND AND TRY *NOT* TO GET HIT.

AND THE SMOOTHIES ARE GOOD FOR YOU. THEY HAVE BIOMODIFIED WHEATGRASS.

WELL, THEY TASTE LIKE SOMETHING THAT *RHYMES* WITH GRASS.

I'LL SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THAT.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY, BEN. A CHANCE TO SHOW THAT SPIDER-MAN CARES ABOUT THE *WHOLE* CITY.

LITTLE WEIRD TO REFER TO PEOPLE LOSING THEIR HOMES AS AN *OPPORTUNITY*, BUT I GOT YOU. DON'T SWEAT IT.

OH... ONE MORE THING.

WE ESTIMATE A SEVENTY-NINE PERCENT CHANCE YOU'LL CROSS PATHS WITH THE ***UNAUTHORIZED*** SPIDER-MAN OPERATING OUT OF BROOKLYN.

IF YOU DO, YOU ARE ***CONTRACTUALLY OBLIGATED*** TO ENFORCE BEYOND'S TRADEMARK.

WELL, ***THAT*** SOUNDS OMINOUS.

DON'T BE SO DRAMATIC. NO ONE'S TALKING ABOUT ANYTHING SCARY.

YOU JUST NEED TO ***SUGGEST*** HE CHANGE HIS NAME. THE R&D GUYS SUGGEST STRIKER OR STINGER, WHICH BOTH TESTED WELL. LET HIM KNOW BEYOND IS ***SERIOUS*** ABOUT PROTECTING ITS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

I'LL BE SURE TO DO THAT. WE DONE HERE?

SIGH

YES, WE'RE DONE.

AWESOME.

TRASH

HEY, BABE. HEADING OUT.

THAT MONSTER IN BROOKLYN?

HOW DID YOU--?

I HAVE MY WAYS.

YES, YOU DO...

ARE...ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE READY TO GO OUT AGAIN? AFTER THE WHOLE KRAVEN THING?

YOU KNOW, ONCE, I WOULDA GOT MAD AT YOU FOR ASKING THAT.

"WHADDYA MEAN?! I'M IN GREAT SHAPE!" ALL THAT MACHO CRAP.

BUT I'VE FINALLY LEARNED HOW *LUCKY* I AM TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO'LL *ASK* ME THAT, EVEN WHEN EVERYONE ELSE THINKS I'M FINE.

BEN...

SO BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT, YEAH, THE KRAVEN THING WAS SCARY. BUT I *GOT* THIS.

OKAY?

IT *HAS* TO BE OKAY, RIGHT?

I'LL BE BACK IN TIME FOR DINNER! BEYOND'S GOT SOME NEW GADGET THEY WANT ME TO TRY OUT. SOUNDS CRAZY FAST, AND HEY...

"...I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO FLY."

SHWIK!

FWOOOOSH!

OVER THE EAST RIVER.

MARCUS, THIS THING IS *KICK-ASS!* I'M NEVER TAKING THE BRIDGE AGAIN!

DON'T GET TOO USED TO IT. EVERY TRIP YOU TAKE WITH IT BURNS MORE FUEL THAN A LUXURY JET.

BED-STUY.
Soon After.

ALL RIGHT, FOLKS, SPIDER-MAN IS HERE! LET ME AT THAT BAD GUY!

HUH? THAT THING'S *GONE*. WE'RE DEALING WITH THE WOUNDED.

WHERE DID RHIZOME GO?

RISE--*WHO?* I'M LOOKING FOR MY GRANDMOTHER'S JEWELRY IN HERE. MY DAUGHTER'S SUPPOSED TO GET MARRIED IN IT.

AND I'M TRYING TO FIND MY HOMEWORK. ARE YOU HERE TO HELP, SPIDER-MAN?

I...UH... WELL...SEE... THAT'S NOT MY ASSIGNMENT.

ASSIGNMENT? WHO THE HELL *ARE* YOU?

THAT...

...IS WHAT I WANNA KNOW!

I *KNOW* THE O.G. SPIDER-MAN'S VOICE. YOU'RE CLOSE, BUT YOU'RE NOT HIM. AND YOU SURE AS HELL AREN'T *ME*. SO WHO *ARE* YOU?

WHOA, BUDDY, I--

I GOTTA TELL YOU, I GOT VERY LITTLE PATIENCE THESE DAYS FOR SPIDER-MAN IMPOSTORS.

MILES JUST HAD HIS OWN CLONE SAGA IN **MMSM 25-28!** --NL

DON'T CALL ME THAT.

WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU'RE DANGEROUS.

WILL YOU JUST LISTEN?!

MOMMY, WHY ARE THE SPIDER-MEN FIGHTING?

I DON'T KNOW, HONEY.

ZZZZAAAT

THWP

LOOK, THIS IS CRAZY! PETE WOULDN'T WANT--

AH, CRAP. BIG MOUTH.

YOU... YOU REALLY *ARE* HIS FRIEND, *HUH?*

FRIEND MIGHT NOT BE THE RIGHT WORD, EXACTLY. MORE LIKE AN ***ESTRANGED BROTHER***. BUT I'M DOING THIS WITH HIS BLESSING, I SWEAR. SINCE HE'S BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL--

HOLD UP, PE--*ER*, SPIDER-MAN'S IN THE *HOSPITAL?*

YEAH. IT'S PRETTY BAD.

WHAT *HAPPENED?*

LONG STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME. BUT THE BEYOND CORPORATION HELPED ME--

THE ***BEYOND CORPORATION?*** YOU'RE WORKING FOR THOSE FOOLS TRYING TO SUE ME FOR BEING SPIDER-MAN?!

HEY, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT--

AAAH!

THMP

NOT BAD.

YOU TOO.

YOU DOWN TO STOP ARGUING LONG ENOUGH TO TRACK DOWN THIS KILLER RUTABAGA?

LET'S DO IT.

YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK WE'VE ACTUALLY MET BEFORE...

MERE MINUTES LATER...

...THOSE INTER-DIMENSIONAL SPIDER-WARS ARE INSANE--

WHOA, THERE IT IS! YOU FOUND IT CRAZY FAST!

GRAAAARL

BEN AND MILES BRIEFLY MET IN **SPIDER-GEDDON!** --NICK

LITTLE TRICK BEYOND CALLS AUGMENTED TACTICAL LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT-- A.T.L.A.S.

SPIDERS CAN'T STOP RHIZOME! RHIZOME BREAK ALL BUILDINGS!

GAH!

NO MORE BRICK AND STEEL!

OKAY, GRUESOME, COME HERE AND LET'S--

UNH! TOO FAST!

WHOMP!

KRAK

RHIZOME PULL DOWN HOUSES!

RHIZOME THE RUIN-MAKER!

MAN, YOU NEED TO HIT IT FROM A DIS--

THWP

THWP

YOINK

YEEEE-OWWW!

CAN'T GET AHOLD OF IT!

BLOWS AREN'T--*UNH!*-- GETTING THROUGH!

US GOING SOLO AIN'T GONNA CUT IT, PAL.

THWP

KRAM

OOF! WE NEED TO TEAM UP.

THWP

SOON, PLEASE.

YEAH, YEAH!

THWP

I FEEL YOU. YOU HOLD HIM STILL WHILE I--

ZZZ

WHOA! I CAN FEEL *INSIDE* THIS THING! SOMETHING HARD...

UH, GROSS.

BZZZ

IT'S JUST...SOME DUDE.

HIS POWERS AREN'T ORGANIC. THEY'RE *TECH*. GRAFTED INTO HIS SKIN. GUESSING THESE DEVICES DESTABILIZE CELL STRUCTURE ENOUGH TO--

MEGA MALL

WAITAMINUTE. I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE. A VERSION OF IT, ANYWAY.

YOU GONNA SHARE WITH THE CLASS?

A GUY-- A COMPUTER PROGRAM--I'VE TANGLED WITH A COUPLE TIMES. *THE ASSESSOR*.

HIS SPECIALTY IS COOKING UP SUPER-POWERED MONSTERS. HE'S... HE'S BAD. *REAL BAD*.

MILES MET HIM IN **MMSM #8**, AND IRON MAN FOUGHT HIM IN THIS YEAR'S **IRON MAN ANNUAL #1**! --NL

GOT IT. I SHOULD REPORT THIS TO BEYOND.

YOU DO THAT. *ME*, I'M GONNA TRY AND FOLLOW THIS TRAIL TO SHUT HIM DOWN FOR GOOD.

MAYBE WE'LL CROSS PATHS AGAIN, SOON.

YOU'RE NOT GONNA TRY TO SERVE ME PAPERS OR WHATEVER, THEN? WE GOOD?

YEAH, WE'RE GOOD.

SEE YOU AROUND, *SPIDER-MAN*.

HI, MULTIBILLION DOLLAR SUPER HERO TRAINING PROFESSIONALS! I'M HOME!

DIDJA MISS ME?

VOICE VERIFIED.

HEAT SIGNATURE. VERIFIED.

BODY SCENT VERIFIED.

ELECTROMAGNETIC AURA VERIFIED.

WELCOME, SPIDER-MAN.

AFTERNOON, LANGSTON.

MARCUS?

NO.

MAXINE!

WHERE'S MARCUS?

MARCUS IS UNDERGOING *DISCIPLINARY ACTION* BECAUSE HE FAILED TO PROPERLY FACILITATE YOUR LATEST OPERATION.

I'M HERE TO IMPRESS UPON YOU THE IMPORTANCE OF FULFILLING *ALL* YOUR MISSION OBJECTIVES.

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT TRADEMARK GARBAGE? I DID WHAT I COULD, OKAY, LADY?

WHAT WAS I *SUPPOSED* TO DO, BEAT UP A TEENAGER?

BEYOND HAS GIVEN YOU A *LOT*, BEN. THE PERSONAL TRAINING. THE THERAPY. THE GADGETS. DO YOU HAVE *ANY IDEA* WHAT THE MANHATTAN MARKET VALUE OF YOUR APARTMENT IS?

WE EVEN ARRANGED TO HAVE JANINE RELEASED FROM PRISON.

WE'VE DONE THIS BECAUSE BEYOND *SEES* SOMETHING IN YOU. MORE THAN AN EXPERIMENT. MORE THAN AN EMPLOYEE.

WE'VE INVESTED TREMENDOUS RESOURCES IN THE BELIEF THAT YOU CAN BE A FIRST-CLASS *HERO*.

NOW YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF: ARE YOU WILLING TO DO WHAT'S *NECESSARY* TO BE A HERO?

OR ARE YOU GOING TO THROW IT ALL AWAY?

MINUTES LATER.

MADAM DIRECTOR, YOU WERE RIGHT ON THE MONEY. ALL SORTS OF INVESTIGATIVE HITS HERE-- OTTO OCTAVIUS IS DEFINITELY DIGGING INTO BEYOND.

SO WE HAVE AN OCTOPUS PROBLEM. FORTUNATELY FOR US, BEYOND SPECIALIZES...

...IN SOLUTIONS!

BEYOND CORPORATION #82

UNAUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION

BEYOND
CHAPTER EIGHT

MEDICAL CENTER

EMERGENCY

ARTHUR ADAMS 8·26·2021

HERE WE GO, MR. PARKER. YOUR NEW ROOM.

IT'S GREAT.

WELL, YOU GRADUATED OUT OF THE ICU, AT LEAST. CONGRATULATIONS!

THANKS.

ANY AVAILABLE NURSE TO ROOM 309, PLEASE. NURSE TO ROOM 309.

THEY NEED ME DOWN THE HALL. I'LL SEND SOMEONE TO GET YOU SETTLED IN AND BRING YOU SOME FOOD THOUGH.

THANKS AGAIN.

I'M MORE TIRED THAN I REALIZED. BY THE TIME THE NURSE LEAVES, I'M ALREADY FALLING--

HEY, I GOT A NEIGHBOR?

YOU MIND IF I MOVE THIS DAMN CURTAIN?

ACTUALLY, I--

YANK!

THAT'S BETTER! HEY, I'M RICO!

HEY, RICO, I'M PETE.

I WAS JUST WATCHING HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GAME, MAN. HAVE YOU SEEN THIS #$%&?! UNBELIEVABLE.

WELL, I'VE BEEN A LITTLE BUSY, SO--

MISTER SOTOMAYOR?

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO COME WITH ME.

HUH? I'M GETTING MOVED *AGAIN?* NOBODY TOLD ME!

TERRIBLY SORRY. TERRIBLY SORRY.

THIS WAY, PLEASE.

WELL, GOOD TO MEET YA, BUDDY! SO LONG!

YEAH, YOU TOO.

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

ALONE AGAIN, I INSTANTLY START TO FALL ASL--

PETER? YOU AWAKE?

OH, HEY, MJ.

DON'T SOUND SO EXCITED TO SEE ME.

SORRY, I--

ARRRRGHHH!

PETE!

HURTS SO MUCH TO SIT UP.

SO STOP SITTING UP, GENIUS.

SURE, IT'S JUST THAT--

I'M SORRY, BUT THERE IS NO ONE HERE BY THAT NAME.

HUH?

ARE YOU SURE? *ENRIQUE SOTOMAYOR.* HE GOES BY RICO.

I DON'T SEE THAT NAME ON MY LIST, MA'AM. TERRIBLY SORRY. TERRIBLY SORRY.

237

THIS IS SOME B.S.! THE FRONT DESK *SAID* HE WAS HERE.

WHERE IS MY HUSBAND?

THAT ORDERLY. HE'S *LYING.* HE JUST WHEELED THAT WOMAN'S HUSBAND OUT OF HERE!

I'M SURE IT'S JUST A MISTAKE. THE HOURS THESE PEOPLE WORK, IT'S EASY TO GET CONFUSED.

AND YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY WORN YOURSELF OUT. YOU NEED TO TAKE IT EASY, TIGER. GET SOME *ACTUAL* REST.

I DON'T NEED TO...

...DON'T NEED TO...

ZZZZ

PARDON ME, MA'AM.

VISITING HOURS ARE *OVER.*

B-BUT IT'S NOT EIGHT YET!

THERE ARE...*SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES* TODAY, MA'AM. TERRIBLY SORRY. TERRIBLY SORRY.

O-OKAY. JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE.

PETE, DO YOU NEED ANY--?

ZZZZ

THAT'S RIGHT, TIGER. REST. GET BETTER. PLEASE.

I'M GONNA ASK ABOUT THESE *SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.*

M-MARY JANE?

IS THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S NAME? SHE'S GONE, HONEY.

THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO DISCHARGE *ME* TWO HOURS AGO!

THIS PLACE IS RUN BY *BOZOS!* THEY CAN'T--

MRS. HAROIAN?

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO COME WITH ME.

I'M... I'M BEING DISCHARGED? FINALLY!

DISCHARGED? OH, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO. TIME FOR YOU TO COME WITH ME. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

SPECIAL WHO?! MY SON'S SUPPOSED TO *COME GET ME!* I'M GOING *HOME!*

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? *I'M SUPPOSED TO GO HOME!*

TERRIBLY SORRY. TERRIBLY SORRY.

HEY, PAL, SHE'S TRYING... TRYING TO TELL YOU THERE'S BEEN A *MISTAKE!*

HEY!

LNNNNHH

*

MISTER PARKER?

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO COME WITH ME.

Y-YOU! WHERE'D THAT OLD LADY GO? AND WHY'D YOU *LIE* TO THAT MAN'S WIFE?

WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON WITH--?

AARRGGHH

WHAT A *NOSY* YOUNG MAN YOU ARE.

I HAD TO INCREASE YOUR DOSAGE.

TERRIBLY SORRY. TERRIBLY SORRY.

BUT IT WILL MAKE YOU MUCH LESS *TROUBLESOME.*

WH-WHAT?

N-NO...

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEA

THERE ARE PLACES IN THIS HOSPITAL THAT WERE NOT MEANT TO BE SEEN.

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUE

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUE

BUT THEY OPEN THEMSELVES TO THOSE WHO KNOW TO *LOOK.*

SQUEAK CLICK SQUEAK

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

YOU'RE SUCH A *CURIOUS* YOUNG MAN. I'LL SHOW YOU MY FAVORITE PLACE.

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUE

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

BUT YOU MAY NOT *LIKE* WHAT YOU *FIND...*

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEA

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEA

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUE

SQUEAK SQUEAK

FOR ONLY IN THE *DARKNESS...*

SNAKE EYES

...CAN I SHOW MY *TRUE SHAPE!*

HERE IN THE DEEP DARK IS WHERE I FEAST.

FOR I CAN ONLY FEED IN MY TRUE SHAPE.

AND THE LIGHT?

THE LIGHT *BURNS* LIKE WILDFIRE.

GOOD TO KNOW.

HRN?

SAY CHEESE!

FLASH

KRRRGGGH!

HAARKN

NO!

STUMP!

MJ!

I THINK WE PASSED LIGHTS ON THE WAY--

GOT IT.

UARRGGGGG

CRASH!

SOMP!

AEEEE!

BUMF BUMF BUMF BUMF

CLCK

WHATEVER THE HELL YOU ARE, YOU TRIED TO EAT THE WRONG GUY.

CHONK

NO!

WHOOOOSH

AAAAAGGGGGGGGHHH

M-MY... H-HERO...

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING*?! GET BACK IN BED!

ARE YOU... F-FLIRTING WITH--?

WHUMP!

SOMEDAY, PETER PARKER, YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN HOW TO REST.

IF YOU DON'T, IT'S GOING TO KILL YOU.

MEANWHILE, IN THE SEWERS BENEATH MANHATTAN.

THIS *BEYOND TRACKING TECH* IS NO JOKE. WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO OUR QUARRY.

COLLEEN, REMIND ME HOW WE GOT TALKED INTO DOING A MISSION FOR MAXINE DANGER, *AGAIN?!*

YOU *WRECKED* THE CAR.

THEY TOLD ME I COULD KEEP THE CAR.

THEY MADE ANOTHER. AND I WANT TO WRECK *THIS* ONE TOO!

EVEN IF THAT MEANS BRINGING IN *THE LIZARD!*

GRAAAARRRRRR!

*80.BEY VARIANT BY
MICHAEL DOWLING & BRIAN REBER

BEYOND CORPORATION

BEYOND CORPORATION #83

THAT'S MY BEN.

OUR BEN, JANINE.

THANKS, LANGSTON.

PENTHOUSE INFINITY POOL. Lower East Side. Beyond Tower.

SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME

DAILY BUGLE

"SPIDER-MAN GOES BEYOND."

"SPIDER-MAN: A MENACE... TO *CRIME*?"

WHO WRITES THESE?

SPIDER-MAN GOES BEYOND

MENACE TO CRIME

GLORY GRANT. DAILY BUGLE.

CA... OPENS UP

BEYOND MUST BE KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON OVER THERE WITH THESE *GLOWING* P.R. CAMPAIGNS.

NO COMMENT.

SURE. KEEP YOUR SECRETS THEN.

CAPTAIN AMERICA IS IN TOWN?

DEDICATING THE NEW FIRST RESPONDERS' WING AT McCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER.

I KNOW THE OTHER SPIDER-MAN IS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL TOO. BEN AND I FELT AWFUL.

BUT BEN REASSURES ME THAT GOOD GUYS ARE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE OUT *THERE* SO WE CAN HAVE BETTER LIVES IN *HERE.*

DING

Hi, Janine.
Passing along a message from Ben in the field. 'Doing great, don't wait up.' Good night. --M

HMMM. BEN'S TOO BUSY TO TEXT *HIMSELF*, OR--

ANYTHING ELSE, MISS?

NO, THANK YOU.

IT IS LIGHTS OUT.

OH, ALL RIGHT.

KLIK

I NEVER GOT USED TO THAT WHEN I WAS ON THE INSIDE.

INSIDE. OUTSIDE.

HEROES. VILLIANS.

I GUESS WE'RE ALL DOING TIME SOMEWHERE.

PETER BENJAMIN PARKER!

I *KNOW* YOU'RE NOT GONNA MAKE ME TELL MY GOOD FRIEND *MAY PARKER* THAT YOU *GAVE UP* ON PHYSICAL THERAPY *THE FIRST DAY!*

I--I JUST *CAN'T* TODAY.

CAN'T OR *WON'T?*

SURE. YEAH. THAT ONE.

QUITTING ISN'T AN OPTION WHEN YOU STILL HAVE FOLK OUT THERE WHO *CARE* FOR YOU, PETER.

"OUT THERE"? DO YOU MEAN PEOPLE IN HERE DON'T CARE ABOUT ME, LOIS?

DON'T SASS ME, PARKER, AND DON'T WASTE MY TIME. YOUR UNCLE TAUGHT YOU BETTER THAN THAT.

DID MAY TELL HER ABOUT THE TIME I HAD THE FLU WHEN I WAS A KID? NOT EXACTLY INSPIRING.

PUSH THAT *CALL BUTTON* WHEN YOU'RE READY TO DO THE *WORK!*

TO SUMMON AUNT MAY'S PERSONAL NURSE RATCHED?

YEAH, NO THANKS.

AT LEAST NURSE MJ STILL MAKES HOUSE CALLS.

MJ
In case you don't remember when you wake up, I stopped by. I know you're worried about PT today. You'll do great. I believe in you, Tiger! XOXO

AWW. MJ ALWAYS KNOWS HOW TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER, EVEN IF IT IS JUST A--

"...TEXT."

I like watching you sleep

FELICIA.

HOPE I DON'T GET BILLED FOR THAT

AM
MAYYYYYY they gave me the GOOD STUFF.
It's late, Peter. PLEASE GO TO SLEEP.
DING
MUST HAVE BEEN DOPED OUT OF MY MIND ON NEW PAIN MEDS LAST NIGHT. I DIDN'T EVEN--

CONGRATULATIONS! You're the HIGHEST auction bidder on Mattro-Theory94's Battle Con '07 Cosplay lot! You have opted for Premium Overnight shipping of (1) Battle-Damaged-Spider-Man-Costume (1) Replica-Web-Shooter (Condition: Used/As-is), and (1) Officially-Licensed-Threats-And-Menaces-JJJ-Bobblehead-With-Autograph-&-COA. Amount total:
A LOT

WHY ON *EARTH* WOULD I--
OW!
LIKE I CAN *AFFORD* ANY OF--
OW!
NOT AGAIN. *NOT NOW.*
PLEASE SPIDER-SENSE...

I JUST NEED YOU TO *CHILL OUT!*

EVER SINCE THE U-FOES BLAST MY SPIDEY-SENSE HAS BEEN STABBING FURTHER INTO MY MIND.

WARNING ME OF DANGER *INSIDE*.

WHEN THE DOCS CHECK MY VITALS AFTER THESE BLACKOUTS I PLAY DUMB.

BUT I'M NOT. I'VE DONE THE *MATH*.

RADIO-VOLATILE GAS PLUS MY OWN UNIQUE PHYSIOLOGY EQUALS MY NORMALLY DEPENDABLE SPIDEY-SENSE TAKING ON A NEW LIFE OF ITS OWN.

LIKE WEARING A GLOVE TURNED INSIDE OUT.

ONLY IT'S *AGONY*.

IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO THINK ABOUT PHYSICAL THERAPY WHEN MOST DAYS I CAN BARELY FIGHT THIS OFF THROUGH SHEER WILLPOWER.

MJ WANTED ME TO TAKE TIME TO PROCESS EVERYTHING.

EVER SINCE UNCLE BEN DIED, I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO JUST *SIT STILL*.

UNMASKED

NOW I'D GIVE UP *ANYTHING* TO GO BACK

TO STOP FIGHTING THE PAIN.

IT HURTS SO BAD.

KRITCH

PLEASE! I--I DON'T *NEED* YOU RIGHT NOW!

I HAVE TO GET THIS UNDER CONTROL.

NOW.

JUST...

SKRACT

...GET OUT!

KAGHOOM

PETER BENJAMIN PARKER...

...AT LEAST YOU ARE NO LONGER IN PAIN.

I DIDN'T ACCIDENTALLY SIT ON YOUR CALL BUTTON THINGY, DID I?

LOOKS LIKE ALL YOU CALLED FOR WAS SOME ***RETAIL THERAPY.***

OH, ***THAT.*** THANKS.

DECIDED TO STROLL ACROSS THE ROOM ALL BY YOURSELF?

MY--UM--***MIGRAINES*** SEEM TO BE A LOT...BETTER. MIND OVER MATTER, YOU KNOW?

DELIGHTED TO HEAR IT.

SO DOES THIS MEAN YOU'RE READY TO DO THE ***WORK?***

THE WORK? OH YEAH. PFFT. ***ABSOLUTELY.***

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP ON ME AGAIN?

DEFINITELY NOT.

DEFINITELY?

DEFINITELY... MAYBE NOT.

MAYBE?

MAYBE... IN A DAY OR TWO?

UH-HUH.

"I JUST NEED TO GET MY FEET BACK UNDER ME FIRST."

AH, NEW YORK...

...I'LL TAKE *SPIDEY THERAPY* WITH YOU ANY DAY.

WHERE THE ONLY THING I FEEL IS THE WIND IN MY FACE AND A COOL BREEZE BLOWING UP MY KNOCK-OFF TIGHTS.

NEED TO JUMP-START MY OTHER SENSES AND GET BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS, SO TO SPEAK.

SHOOTER DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A TOY. MAYBE SALVAGED FROM AN OLD SCARLET SPIDER COSTUME? POWER SUPPLY PROBABLY JUST NEEDS A TWEAK.

WHO NEEDS BEYOND'S FANCY UPGRADES WHEN YOU HAVE MATTRO-THEORY94 FEBREEZEING YOUR MASKS?

STILL A BIT SHAKY AND STIFF. BETTER GET STARTED.

WON'T BE LONG BEFORE NEW YORK AND SPIDER-*BEN* WILL NEED SPIDER-*MAN* TO--

Park

HELP!

STOP

THIS IS IT. TIME FOR SPIDER-MAN'S SENSATIONAL RETURN!

CARJACKERS! HELP!

SECURITY EN ROUTE!

OR, AT LEAST, MY SLIGHTLY-OUT-OF-SHAPE TEAM-UP WITH SOME RENT-A-COP.

GET IN! YOU DRIVE!

SHOOT, BAE!

I--I CAN'T *SEE* NOTHIN'! WHY'D YOU LET 'EM PEPPER SPRAY ME?!

ON MY *WORST* DAY I COULD TAKE THESE TWO.

CACHAK

I THINK THAT SHOULD DO IT.

VROOOM

WAIT, WHAT'S THIS SHIFT THINGY?

DIDN'T YOU LEARN HOW TO DRIVE STICK?! IT'S A MANUAL TRANSMISSION!

NO! DID *YOU*?!

VROOOOOM SCREEEEECH

I *LOVE* STUPID CRIMINALS.

HEY, KIDS! THERE'S BETTER WAYS TO GET THAT NEW CAR SMELL.

EWWW!!!

WATCH THAT LOONEY FAKE SPIDER-MAN, BAE!

ACTUALLY, THERE ARE *TWO* OF US NOW...

...AND I AM THE *AMAZING* SPIDER-

THWIP!

GO-WEBS-GO!

OH YEAHHH!

UH-OH.

AAAIEE!

MATTRO-THEORY94 WILL BE GETTING A *VERY* NEGATIVE PRODUCT REVIEW.

HRRN--

HEY! SPIDER-FAKE!

I'M NOT--

STOMP

URK.

OR MAYBE I AM.

SLUGGISH.

BODY IS STILL SHOT.

NO RESPONSE TIME WITHOUT MY--

STOMP

FWAM

THOK

FWAK

TEN-FOUR, THE CAPTAIN IS ON IT.

OH, THANK PAUL BLART.

SECURITY.

STAY BACK, PIG!

BLAM BLAM

HUH. THAT SILHOUETTE IS A BIT MORE ON THE *HEROIC* SIDE THAN I WAS EXPECTING...

FWANG FWANG

...AND BULLETPROOF?

THAT IS ENOUGH.

OH.

OKAY.

HE MAKES WAY MORE SENSE

UNLIKE MY SPIDER-SENSE WHICH ISN'T WARNING ME ABOUT THE GUN.

BLAM

TOK

THE BULLET

OR CAPTAIN AMERICA'S GLORIOUS, MADE-IN-THE-U.S.-OF-A...

TENK

...SHIELD!

FWANG

I MAY HAVE PUT THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE ON THIS WHOLE "RETURN" THING.

I AM SO SORRY, KID.

I JUST THOUGHT, YOU KNOW...

THWIP-PPPPTHH

...YOU USUALLY DUCK.

PETER.

AW, CAN I STAY UP, AUNT MAY?

DRINK UP ALL THIS BROTH AND YOUR UNCLE WILL TUCK YOU IN. I THINK HE HAS SOMETHING ELSE FOR YOU.

REALLY?

YES, ***REALLY.*** WE DON'T LIE OR ***STEAL*** IN THIS FAMILY, REMEMBER?

YES, MAY.

FEVER IS DOWN A BIT.

DOES YOUR HEAD STILL HURT? I MIXED IN SOME MEDICINE TO TAKE AWAY YOUR SENSE OF PAIN, I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE THE TASTE.

MY... ***SENSE?***

YES. IT'S STILL THERE, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO ***FEEL*** IT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

GOOD NIGHT, PETER.

STILL... THERE?

TAP TAP TAP

NO...

51

NO! STAY OUT!

FWOOF

PLEASE... I CAN'T...

THERE'S NO HIDING FROM *HIM*.

PETER?

UNCLE BEN!

GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU, SON. YOUR AUNT DIDN'T WANT ME GIVING YOU THE IDEA THAT BREAKING RULES WINS YOU PRIZES, BUT I SWEET-TALKED HER.

YOU PAID FOR THE GUM I TOOK FROM MR. LUIZ'S?

LOOK. I DON'T KNOW MUCH, BUT ONE THING I *DO* KNOW IS WE DON'T USUALLY GET REWARDED FOR DOING WHAT'S RIGHT.

TRUTH IS, MOST OF THE TIME...

...IT *COSTS* US SOMETHING.

FOR A GOOD SOLDIER, SOMETIMES IT MEANS CATCHING SHRAPNEL, OR THE *FLU* ON A LONG MARCH BACK TO MR. LUIZ'S, OR SO I *HEAR*.

BEING A GOOD PERSON MEANS NEVER GIVING UP ON THOSE HARD MARCHES, OR TURNING AWAY FROM THE RIGHT THING JUST BECAUSE IT *HURTS*.

YOU'LL HAVE TO DECIDE *EVERY DAY* IF YOU'LL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO PAY THAT PRICE, OR LEAVE IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO PAY FOR YOU.

THESE LESSONS WERE HARD WON, M'BOY. NEVER GIVE THEM UP, WHATEVER THE COST. AND DON'T FORGET THEM, OKAY?

NEVER, SIR.

NEVER?

"TILL THE DAY I DIE."

C'MON, WEB-HEAD!

POP

I KNOW YOU'RE STILL THERE.

I CAN'T FEEL YOU... BUT I WANT TO AGAIN.

I *NEED* TO.

WHATEVER THE COST...I CAN TAKE IT.

I CAN TAKE IT.

NEVER GIVE UP.

THWIP

RRRRRRRRRRRR!!!

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

N-N...

NEVER!

PARKER

#81 DEVIL'S REIGN VARIANT BY
MAHMUD ASRAR & MATTHEW WILSON

BEYOND CORPORATION

BEYOND CORPORATION #84

BEYOND BRANCH #C-47.
Midtown.

SO I KID YOU NOT, MY MAN SAYS, "I'M ON DRUGS," AND CALLS ME A *TURTLE!*

UH-HUH...

SO I SLIDE HIM ONE OF THOSE *HEADACHE PILLS* I TOOK FROM R&D, AND I GUESS THE BEYOND BRASS DIDN'T APPRECIATE IT, SO THEY PUT ME HERE.

DAMN, DOUG, THAT'S CRAZY...

I MEAN, WHY EVEN *DEVELOP* ANTI-WEIRDNESS PILLS IF YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO *USE* THEM WHEN THEY WANNA HELP A *FRIEND* STOP FEELING *WEIRD*?

BEYOND MAGAZINE

ALSO, SPIDER-MAN IS MY FRIEND.

UH-HUH.

I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO PUT SOME *RESPECT* ON ME AND SPIDEY'S NAME, *KEITH!* WE SHARED A *TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE*. A BOND WAS FORMED, AND I WON'T LET YOU TAKE THAT FROM--

YOUR WIFE SOUNDS LIKE A REALLY GREAT GRANDMA. ANYWAY...

--ME?!

...IT'S RIGHT THIS WAY, SIR.

MAG

THANK YOU, SONNY. YOU'VE BEEN MOST HELPFUL...

...BUT I CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE!

DUDE! WHY WOULD YOU LET FRIGGIN' DOCTOR OCTOPUS IN?!

I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST SOME OLD GUY LOOKING FOR HIS GRANDSON!

UGGGH!

BUT MY COFFEE-- GAACK!

SILENCE, DOLTS. THOUGH I AM GRATEFUL I NO LONGER HAVE TO KEEP UP THIS DODDERING OLD MAN FACADE.

I JUST GOT KIDNAPPED, MAN. ANOTHER WRITE-UP AND THEY'RE GONNA DOCK MY PAY--

WORRY NOT--I'M NOT HERE TO PREY UPON THE LOWEST RUNG OF THE BEYOND LADDER. NO, I'M HERE SO THAT I MAY CLIMB TO THE TOP!

"AND HOW WOULD YOU SAY THAT MAKES YOU FEEL?"

"TERRIFIED.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE ALL HAVE TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR. AND THE GUY LOOKING BACK AT YOU?

THERE'S NO HIDING FROM *HIM.*

"ABSOLUTELY *TERRIFIED.*

"HIS FACE IS JUST *GONE.*"

"HOLD IT THERE. I WANT YOU TO OPEN YOUR EYES, BEN."

"OOF, UH, OKAY..."

"GOOD. ***NOW*** TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE."

"A FACE. I SEE MY *UNCLE'S FACE!*

"AND...AND I CAN SEE I LET HIM DOWN."

"AND HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?"

"OVERWHELMED."

OVERWHELMED THAT SOMEONE COULD *BELIEVE* IN ME *SO MUCH...*

...IT MAKES ME WANT TO PROVE HIM *RIGHT.*

OOF, THAT WAS HEAVY.

GOOD. THAT'S GREAT PROGRESS, BEN. HOW DO YOU FEEL?

HONESTLY, DOC?

WAAAH!

AMAZING! ABSOLUTELY TOP-TIER BREAKTHROUGH HERE! CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!

MY PLEASURE, BEN. BUT COULD YOU PLEASE PUT ME DOWN? THIS IS *SO* NOT APPROPRIATE.

LATER THAT NIGHT.

PERFECT.

SO IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR SESSION WITH DR. KAFKA WENT WELL.

ABSOLUTELY.

I THOUGHT WE WERE A LI'L OVERDRESSED FOR THAI...

NICE TO HAVE A SPACE TO JUST LAY IT ALL OUT THERE WITH NO JUDGMENT, YOU KNOW?

BUT IT DOES HAVE ME WONDERING... HOW DO *YOU* FEEL ABOUT ALL THIS?

BEL BEL

...BUT THEN I SAID--YOU KNOW WHAT? #$%& IT! WE CLEAN UP GOOD, AND WE EARNED THIS NIGHT.

OBVI, WE'RE TOTAL BABES. BUT I'M TALKING THE ***BEYOND*** OF IT--THE FANCY PAD, MARCUS, A STAFF ON CALL, SELF-DRIVING CAR. STILL WEIRD, RIGHT?

YOU KNOW HOW FOLKS SAY THAT SOMETHING IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

YEAH...

WELL, I DON'T THINK THIS IS ONE OF ***THOSE*** INSTANCES BECAUSE, QUITE FRANKLY, THE WHOLE OPERATION STILL NEEDS A LOT OF WORK.

HEH, YEAH. BEYOND IS FAR FROM PERFECT. THAT WHOLE SITUATION WITH MILES WAS--OOF. AND DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON MAXINE.

BUT DESPITE ALL THAT, THEY LET ME GO OUT THERE AND DO SOME REAL GOOD.

WELL, IF WE'RE LANDING ON GOOD THINGS TO ADD TO THAT LIST, THEN I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE...

OH?

OH.

BUZZ! BUZZ!

HOW BADLY WILL I PAY FOR ANSWERING THIS?

IT'LL BE A SWIFT DEATH.

TRUE LOVE.

BEEP

HARD TO EXPRESS JUST *HOW BAD* THE TIMING IS ON THIS ONE, MARCUS.

DATE NIGHT'S GOING TO HAVE TO BE EIGHTY-SIXED, BEN.

WE NEED YOU IN THE FIELD ***ASAP.*** A MAJOR PLAYER HAS SPENT THE LAST WEEK MAKING LIFE ***HELL*** FOR BEYOND, AND HE'S JUST REAPPEARED.

TARGET IS CONFIRMED STILL ON SITE.

HE'S BREACHED FIREWALLS ONE THROUGH THIRTY, SIR! SECURITY MEASURES WON'T KEEP HIM OUT MUCH LONGER.

*HOW MAJOR ARE WE **TALKIN'** HERE, MARCUS?*

*THE KIND WITH EIGHT ARMS. **OTTO OCTAVIUS** IS CURRENTLY HOLED UP IN A BEYOND DATA CENTER IN MIDTOWN. LOT OF INTEL IN THERE. STUFF **I** DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT. WE NEED YOU THERE PROTECTING THOSE ASSETS **NOW.***

HERE IT COMES...

ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE PRIORITIZING CORPORATE SECRETS OVER PERSONNEL...

NOT ME--THIS IS COMING DIRECTLY FROM MAXINE HERSELF. I'M SORRY, BEN, BUT MY HANDS ARE TIED HERE.

IT'S OKAY, MARCUS. NO TELLING WHAT CRAZY SCHEME OTTO HAS UP HIS SLEEVES. I'M ON THE WAY.

TRADING IN TOM YUM FOR A GUY WITH ROBOT ARMS?

IT'S OKAY. WE'LL GET DINNER ANOTHER TIME.

JANINE, I--

OH SHUT UP AND GO BE A HERO.

THIS IS YOUR ONE GET-OUT-OF-JAIL-FREE CARD, SO I HOPE YOU USE IT WISELY, BUDDY.

I'LL THWIP OVER, SAVE A FEW FOLKS, PUNCH AN OLD MAN, AND MEET YOU BACK AT THE APARTMENT FOR LEFTOVERS?

JUST DON'T KEEP A GIRL WAITING *ALL* NIGHT, OKAY?

WELL, WHATEVER MS. GODBE WANTS...

...MS. GODBE GETS!

AN EMPIRE BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF LIES AND THIEVERY! YOUR MASTERS WILL RETURN WHAT HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM ME! AND INSIDE THAT BOX LIES MY REVENGE.

MAYBE RETHINK OPENING THAT THING UP, PAL. IT WON'T END WELL.

I JUST WANNA SAY I'M NOT EVEN REALLY *WITH* THESE GUYS LIKE THAT, SO YOU DEFINITELY DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME--

SILENCE! AND PRAY I DO NOT TURN MY ATTENTION TOWARD *YOU* ONCE THIS TASK IS DONE.

BEYOND THOUGHT THEY COULD ***ELUDE*** ME BY PLACING THEIR MOST CHERISHED SECRETS IN A PLACE FREE FROM OUTSIDE COMMUNICATIONS. HUBRIS.

THERE IS ***NO PLACE*** MY ARMS CANNOT REACH. I'VE SEEN HOW BEYOND ***REALLY*** OPERATE. HOW THEY REALLY ***THINK***.

SECURITY DISENGAGED.

NOW I SHALL KNOW ***EVERY*** DARK, MANIPULATIVE SECRET THIS COMPANY HOLDS.

OH NO, OTTO. LOOK OUT...

...SPIDER-MAN IS ABOUT TO KICK YOU IN THE FACE!

SPIDEY!

ATTACK

EGAAAH!

HEY, *GIANT TURTLE!* LONG TIME NO SEE!

GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE NOT *TRIPPIN'* ANYMORE, MY MAN!

CLASSIC DOUG. MISSED THIS.

I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF OUR BOWL-CUT PROBLEM--THERE A SAFE ROOM OR SOMETHING YOU CAN GET TO?

Y-YEAH, DOWN THE HALL.

TOLD YOU WE WERE FRIENDS!

OFFICIAL SPIDER-MAN BUSINESS HOURS ARE BETWEEN NINE AND SIX, DOC. AFRAID I'M GONNA HAVE TO CHARGE YOU *TIME AND A HALF* FOR THIS BUTT-KICKIN'.

THWIP

YOU'RE BELOW MY *NOTICE*, BOY. THOUGH I THINK WE BOTH KNOW WHO THE *SUPERIOR* SPIDER-MAN IS.

I'M HERE FOR A *DIFFERENT* REASON.

FZZSHH

WELL, *THAT'S* CRYPTIC.

SOMETHING WAS *TAKEN* FROM ME. SOMETHING I WASN'T EVEN *AWARE* OF UNTIL I STUMBLED UPON ONE OF YOUR CORPORATE MASTERS' HIDDEN *SIDE VENTURES.*

IF EVEN *I* COULD BE UNKNOWINGLY COMPROMISED, THERE IS NO TELLING HOW DEEP THEIR WELL OF LIES GOES.

HATE TO HEAR IT-- *UUUGH!*

THWACK

I'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THE WHOLE "CORPORATIONS ARE BAD" THING WITH ***KRAVEN***. YOU GUYS SHOULD REALLY TALK MORE!

THEY MAKE YOU LOTS OF MONEY AND ARE EASILY MANIPULABLE FOR MASTER PLANS.

ENOUGH TALK! FACE ME!

YOU MISUNDERSTAND-- I THINK CORPORATIONS ARE ***GREAT.***

HUH?

NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF, DOC. HAPPENS TO ***EVERYBODY.***

WHAT TRICKERY IS ***THIS?!***

JUST A BIT OF ANTI-OCK TECH THE FOLKS IN THE ***WEAPONS DIVISION*** WHIPPED UP. TAGGED YA WITH IT A SECOND AGO.

DISABLES YOUR ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH THOSE ARMS OF YOURS.

CLEVER. THOUGH I SUPPOSE WHEN BACKED BY AN ORGANIZATION AS LARGE AS BEYOND, SUCH FEATS BECOME RATHER ***PEDESTRIAN.***

NO NEED TO BE A SORE LOSER, DOC. A LOT OF NICE PEOPLE HELPED MAKE THIS STUFF!

OH, TRUST ME, BOY. I'VE SPENT ENOUGH TIME HERE TO APPRECIATE BEYOND'S WORK.

EXIT'S NOT THAT WAY, OCK.

OH, I KNOW. IN FACT, I KNOW ***FAR*** MORE ABOUT THIS INSTALLATION THAN YOU DO, BOY.

YEAH, I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO PUT THAT BACK.

CLICK!

SEE, *THIS* IS WHY YOU DON'T MONOLOGUE, BEN! THOUGHT WITHOUT HIS ARMS...

HEY, THAT'S CHEATING!

BRATTA

NNNF. OKAY, I'LL ADMIT--*NNF*-- THAT WAS PRETTY SMOOTH. ***SNEAKY***-- *NNF*--BUT SMOOTH.

BRATTA

BRATTA

I'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME ON YOU. I WILL HAVE WHAT IS MINE.

THE THING ABOUT *THAT* IS I CAN'T LET YOU DO--

KRUSH

GAAAH!

WHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHA

SSSZZT

NNNGGGH--

DAMMIT, OTTO!

GUUUH!

BRATTA BRATTA

BRATTA

MEDIOCRE.

WHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHAWHUWHAWHU

THUMP

UGGGH...

THIS WAS MERELY A *PRELUDE*, BOY. I PRAY FOR YOUR MASTERS' SAKE THAT THEY HIRE SOMEONE BETTER EQUIPPED FOR WHEN I *RETURN*.

DOC OCK!

YOU'RE STARTING TO MAKE A HABIT OF WAKING UP IN A MEDBAY, BEN.

WHAT CAN I SAY, I LOVE THE SERVICE.

HOW BAD'RE THINGS LOOKING?

I DON'T KNOW THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT WAS IN THAT BLACK BOX BESIDES THAT IT CONTAINS INFORMATION BEYOND DEEMS *SUPREMELY* SENSITIVE AND THAT IT IS NOW IN OTTO'S HANDS.

BUT YOU'VE ONLY BEEN OUT FOR THIRTY OR SO MINUTES, SO HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR.

I SCREWED UP BIG-TIME, MARCUS. I LET EVERYBODY DOWN.

YOU WENT IN WITH LITTLE INTEL AND STILL PUT UP ONE HELL OF A FIGHT. EVEN IF WAKING UP IN A MEDBAY MIGHT SAY OTHERWISE...

I DON'T KNOW IF I LIKE YOU ROASTING ME, MARCUS.

THAT'S INTERESTING...

*...BECAUSE I ALSO HAVE A STRONG DISLIKE FOR PROBLEMS. SO IMAGINE MY DISMAY AT ONE SO **COLOSSAL** IT REQUIRES MY **PERSONAL** ATTENTION.*

*YOU WERE CHOSEN FOR THIS PROJECT BECAUSE WE THOUGHT YOU WERE **BETTER** THAN THE OTHER CHOICES. I'M DISAPPOINTED TO FIND YOU UNABLE TO BEST A FOE THE LEGACY SPIDER-MAN MADE A ROUTINE OF BEATING.*

OKAY, OUCH.

NICE OF YOU TO CHECK IN, MAXINE.

IT'S HARD TO OVERSTATE JUST HOW BADLY I NEED THAT DRIVE BACK IN OUR HANDS. AS OF NOW, THIS IS YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY. I NEED OTTO FOUND. **FAST.**

YES, MA'AM. WE'RE WORK--

FUNNY THAT YOU WOULD START TALKING WHEN I HAVEN'T **STOPPED.**

WE'LL FIND OCK, MAXINE. BUT I DON'T LOVE HOW CLOAK-AND-DAGGER YOU'RE BEING ABOUT WHAT'S ON THAT DRIVE.

YOU KNOW **EXACTLY** THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW TO OPERATE AT 100% CAPACITY AS A BEYOND ASSET.

I'M **NOT** AN ASSET--

YES, YOU **ARE.** ONE THAT'S QUICKLY BECOMING A ***LIABILITY.***

AND I NEED THE BOTH OF YOU TO KNOW THAT I DO NOT **SUFFER** LIABILITIES.

WHAT'S ON THE DRIVE, MAXINE?

INFORMATION.

WHAT KIND?

THE CONFIDENTIAL KIND THAT ANY NUMBER OF OUR COMPETITORS COULD USE TO MAKE LIFE A LIVING HELL FOR BEYOND AND EVERY PERSON WE EMPLOY IN PERPETUITY.

SO GET IT BACK.

COPY THAT.

YES, MA'AM.

HOPE YOU HAVE SOME IDEAS WHERE TO START LOOKING, MARCUS...

"...'CAUSE THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE THE HELL OTTO IS."

WELCOME BACK, MRS. LIND. HAVE A GOOD LUNCH?

THE BEST! HAVE A GOOD ONE, LUIS!

BEYOND HQ.
Across Town.

OH, HI THERE. MAY I HELP YOU?

YES, I'M HERE TO SEE *MAXINE DANGER.*

I'M SORRY, SIR. I DON'T SEE ANY SCHEDULED VISITS FOR MS. DANGER TODAY.

THAT'S NO PROBLEM, MY DEAR BOY...

...THIS VISIT IS SOMETHING OF A *SURPRISE!*

CODY-PM CODE
CLIICK TO ALERT
press-lobby

#85 BEYOND CORPORATION

...THIS IS SOMETHING OF AN UNEXPECTED VISIT.

MY GOD--

ZZZZZAAAAPPPP!

TO THINK AN OPERATION WITH SUCH POTENTIAL WOULD BE UNDERSERVED BY SUCH A LACK OF PREPARATION.

THIS I.D. CARD SHOULD HELP.

I AM QUITE CURIOUS TO MEET THIS *MAXINE DANGER!*

L-LUIS?!

WORRY NOT, MADAM. THIS IS SIMPLY A DRILL, AND THAT'S MERELY A LIGHT SEDATIVE. LUIS WILL BE FINE.

YOU SURE? LOOKED LIKE HE HIT HIS HEAD PRETTY HARD...

ALL PART OF THE DRILL. TRUST ME, MADAM. I'M A *DOCTOR.*

THAT DATA DRIVE CONFIRMED WHAT I KNEW TO BE TRUE. THAT BEYOND'S PROGRAM WAS BUILT UPON THE BONES OF *MY* HARD WORK AT PARKER INDUSTRIES. VULTURES!

I WILL PUT THESE PEOPLE IN THEIR PLACE AND ASSUME RIGHTFUL CONTROL OF MY STOLEN IDEAS. *NOTHING* WILL DISTRACT ME FROM THIS SINGULAR VISION--

WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE IS THIS?!

THE KIND THAT DON'T LIKE BEING OGLED, ***DRY-BOY!*** KEEP IT MOVIN'!

MY WORD.

A SCIENTIFIC STUNT, MOST LIKELY. THE LENGTHS THESE PEOPLE GO TO MOCK MY GENIUS KNOWS NO BOUNDS!

YOU DON'T GOTS THE STOMACH FOR WHAT'S IN THERE, PAL.

THIS CANNOT BE...

THEY ***DARE?***

WHAT ON EARTH?!

SANDWICH DEPARTMENT #1

RELEASE US, O' BUNLESS ONE, AND WE SHALL GRANT YOU WISHES THREE!

EGAD!

SANDWICH DEPARTMENT

AND WHAT WAS BEYOND THAT FIRST ROOM, I MAY NEVER FORGET! I MUST KEEP STRONG IN MY RESOLVE AS THERE IS NO TELLING WHAT OTHER *HORRORS* THIS PLACE WILL HOLD!

MANY FLOORS LATER.

NOTHING BUT GLORIFIED *HANGOVER PILLS.* ANOTHER WASTE.

WHOA THERE, DOC! HOPE YOU GOT A PRESCRIPTION FOR THOSE.

GOTTA WARN YOU THOUGH-- SIDE EFFECTS MIGHT INCLUDE US KICKING YOUR BUTT.

MISTY, YOU'RE BETTER THAN THAT PUN.

WE JUST FINISHED TRAINING AND I'M TIRED, *COLLEEN.* CAN YOU LET ME LIVE?

YOU SEEM TO BE MISTAKEN, MS. KNIGHT...

...I AM THE ONE YOU SHOULD BE ASKING THAT!

YOU'RE PUSHING THE GLIDE-BOOSTER TOO HARD, BEN! IT'S LIABLE TO BLOW UP AT THIS PACE.

PUT IT ON MY COMPANY CARD, MARCUS. TIME'S NOT ON OUR SIDE, IN CASE YOU FORGOT.

DOC OCK IS RANSACKING BEYOND HQ, AND I NEED TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE HURTS ANYONE ELSE.

YOU CAN'T STOP HIM IF YOU'RE A SMOLDERING CRATER ON FIFTH STREET.

THEN YOU'RE REALLY GONNA HATE THE PART WHERE I TELL YOU I ADDED AFTER-BURNERS.

YOU WHAT?!

VA-VOOOOOM!

KEY ALL SECURITY SHUTTERS TO AUTO-OPEN ON MY BIOSIGNATURE. I'M COMING IN *HOT* AND DON'T HAVE TIME TO KNOCK!

YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE THIS EASY AND JUST CALL IT A DAY, WOULD YOU, DOC?

YEAH, YOU'RE MAKING ME SHOOT SOME OF MY FAVORITE BULLETS. THESE THINGS DON'T GROW ON TREES!

HEY!

MISTY! LET HER GO, OTTO!

UGGGH!

OOOF!

WHAM!

YOU'RE HEAVIER THAN YOU LOOK.

NOT NOW, COLLEEN!

SIT TIGHT, LADIES. I WILL RETURN ONCE MY BUSINESS IS DONE.

I CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH HOW CREEPY "SIT TIGHT, LADIES" SOUNDS!

UGH, I CAN'T BELIEVE WE JUST LOST TO #$%& DR. OCTOPUS!

LOCK THAT ENTRANCE DOWN *NOW!*

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE SAFE ROOM, MA'AM?

I REFUSE TO WASTE A PERFECTLY GOOD SAFE ROOM ON A *TEMPER TANTRUM* FROM OTTO OCTAVIUS.

CONTACT!

I SAID LOCK THAT #$%& DOOR DOWN!

HE'S BREACHING! GET THAT DOOR SEALED!

BRATTA! BRATTA!

AGGGGH!

LOOK OUT-- *GGNNNH!*

WH-WHAM

MAN DOWN!

WE NEED BACKUP! REPEAT, WE NEED--

BLAT BLAT BLAT

KRAKK

SCREEEEE

MAXINE DANGER!

I WOULD HAVE *WORDS* WITH YOU!

OTTO.

YOU HAVE QUITE THE RESOLVE, BUT I'VE SEEN THE CONTENTS OF THAT DRIVE.

THE *LIES*. THE *MANIPULATIONS*. EVERYTHING YOUR SPIDER-PROGRAM WAS BUILT UPON. ONCE I TAKE OVER, I'LL SEE THAT IT'S USED FOR ITS *INTENDED* PURPOSE.

REVENGE FOR IMAGINED SLIGHTS IS PETTY MOTIVATION, EVEN BY YOUR *VERY* LOW STANDARDS, OTTO.

CURIOUS WAY TO BEG FOR YOUR LIFE.

BEGGING IS VERY MUCH *BENEATH* ME, OTTO. HOWEVER, ADMITTING I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST CLUE AS TO WHY YOU'RE HERE IS NOT.

MAYBE THE GUILT OF STEALING *MY* PROPERTY COMPELLED YOU TO RETURN IT? HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN.

GRRRGH...

IF ANGERING ME FURTHER IS HOW YOU CHOOSE TO SPEND YOUR LAST MOMENTS, I BELIEVE I'VE INDULGED YOU LONG ENOUGH! CONSIDER THIS YOUR RESIGNATION--

GRASH!

I GUESS YOU DIDN'T SEE THE SIGN, OTTO...

...THE SUGGESTIONS BOX IS IN THE BREAK ROOM!

WHAM!

THUD!

CRASH!

DAMN YOU, BOY-- GAAAH!

TRY NOT TO DESTROY ANY MORE OF MY WALLS, SPIDER-MAN.

I JUST GAVE YOU AN OPEN FLOOR PLAN. YOU SHOULD BE *THANKING* ME!

WHAT IN THE--?

HEY, DOC, JUST DEALING WITH A LITTLE OCTOPUS PROBLEM.

BE SURE TO TAKE CARE OF THIS QUICK, WE STILL HAVE A SESSION LATER.

SURE THING--

IF YOU'RE THAT HARD UP FOR WORK, ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS ASK FOR A RECOMMENDATION, BUDDY!

YOU CANNOT AVOID MY GRASP FOREVER!

OOOF!

SLAM

ENOUGH OF THESE DISTRACTIONS, BOY!

CARDS ON THE TABLE--I DO HAVE ONE MORE TRICK UP MY SLEEVE--

AACK!

AND IT'S A REAL DOOZY.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?

I AM SO GLAD YOU ASKED...

SNAP!

WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS?!

JUST FIGURED I'D SHOW YOU THE REAL COOL STUFF THE TEAM BUILT TO PREP FOR YOU. IT WAS TOO BIG FOR FIELD-USE EARLIER.

VOOOM!

SHOOSH!

LIKE THIS ***MAGNET GUN!*** IT FIRES A MAGNETIC CHARGE INTENSE ENOUGH TO PUT MAGNETO TO SHAME.

BUT DON'T TELL HIM I SAID THAT.

YOU ***INSOLENT*** LITTLE--

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

I ALSO HAVE SPINNERETS! AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY'RE, LIKE, REALLY COOL.

RELEASE ME!

NOW HERE COMES THE GOOD PART.

KRACK

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU HAS CHANGED.

I'M DONE PLAYING GAMES, DOC. I JUST WANT TO SHOW EVERYONE THAT I'VE EARNED THIS. EARNED *EVERYTHING.*

IS THAT SO...?

NOW THAT I'VE *STYLISHLY* KICKED YOUR BUTT, YOU READY TO GIVE UP?

NONSENSE!

YOU FOOLISH BOY...

...I'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN!

FLICK

NAH...

...THAT TRICK ONLY WORKS ONCE.

YA-YANK

DAMMIT.

KA-BOOOOM

NOW, WHEN IT COMES TO ME? I'M JUST FULL OF SURPRISES!

SAY IT WITH ME NOW!

YEE!

THWIP

WHAT ARE YOU DO--

AND!

HAWW!

YOU'LL KILL US BOTH!

ACK!

THUD!

I BET THAT LOOKED SO COOL.

THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED, RIGHT, OTTO? TO TAKE WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS AND SEE WHICH OF US IS THE BEST?

THE NAIVETE. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU'RE IN A BOX! THAT YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN VEAL!

A CALF FATTENED UP BY MAXINE AND HER PEOPLE--TO THINK YOU OFFER ANY WORTH BEYOND BEING A HIGHLY SUGGESTIBLE WHELP. I ALMOST PITY YOU--

KRAK

SHUT UP!

UGGGGGH!

NO MORE LIES, OTTO!

NO MORE HEAD GAMES!

THUNK!

I'M GOING TO *PROVE* TO YOU-- TO EVERYONE, ONCE AND FOR ALL--THAT I'M HERE FOR A REASON.

THAT I BELONG!

THAT I GET RESULTS!

THAT I CANNOT BE MANIPULATED!

A FOOL.

WHAT WAS THAT?

I SAID YOU'RE A DAMNED FOOL, BOY! BEYOND DIDN'T CHOOSE YOU FOR YOUR "STRONG WILL" BUT BECAUSE YOU'RE ***PSYCHOLOGICALLY COMPROMISED!*** BECAUSE YOU ARE ***WEAK!***

AN EASILY CONTROLLED LAPDOG PRONE TO EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS AND DISTRACTIONS WHOSE LEASH ENDS IN BEYOND'S HANDS.

SOMEONE THEY COULD BEND TO DO WHATEVER THEY BID-- SO LONG AS THEY JUST APPLY THE RIGHT PRESSURE.

DON'T BELIEVE ME, BOY? I HAVE THE ***PROOF*** HERE.

A DATA DRIVE OF ALL OF MAXINE AND BEYOND'S TERRIBLE LITTLE SECRETS. I BARELY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE.

I'VE DISABLED THE SECURITY PROTOCOLS. NO ONE WILL KNOW IT'S BEEN OPENED. ITS CONTENTS WILL BE KNOWN TO YOU AND YOU ALONE.

I'M NOT SEEING THE ENDGAME FOR THIS CON, OTTO...

THIS IS NO ***RUSE***, BOY.

I'M A MONSTER WHO HAS HURT MANY, AND I KNOW MY OWN. THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR MACHINATIONS RUN DEEP, AND YOU WOULD DO WELL TO BE AWARE.

YOU'RE LYING! I'VE DONE GOOD. I'VE DONE ***SO*** MUCH GOOD. I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU TAKE THIS FROM ME! TO TURN ME AGAINST THEM.

I--I DON'T BELIEVE YOU...

I'M MANY THINGS, BUT A *LIAR* IS NOT ONE OF THEM. INSIDE, YOU'LL FIND THE DETAILS OF YOUR PSYCH PROFILE COMPILED BY BEYOND PSYCHOLOGISTS. YOU CAN SEE IT FOR YOURSELF.

OF COURSE, YOU'RE UNDER NO *OBLIGATION* TO READ THEM.

...

IF YOU FIND THAT I HAVE MISLED YOU, I'M SURE YOU COULD USE YOUR MASTER'S AMPLE RESOURCES TO FIND ME. *EVENTUALLY.*

GOODBYE, SPIDER-MAN. ENJOY YOUR *WIN.*

"SO THAT'S HOW YOU LOST EVERYTHING?"

AT LEAST EVERYTHING THAT IS IMPORTANT TO *ME?*

YES.

SO, AFTER INTERCEPTING OTTO, YOUR FIGHT LED YOU TO AN ADJOURNING BUILDING, AND IN THE ENSUING STRUGGLE, NOT ONLY DID OTTO ESCAPE, BUT THE DATA DRIVE WAS ALSO DESTROYED?

DOC'S BELT WAS ARMED. HE SET IT TO SELF-DESTRUCT ALONG WITH THE DRIVE THE MOMENT HE SAW THE FIGHT GOING SOUTH. HE SLIPPED AWAY DURING THE CHAOS.

UNFORTUNATE.

THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT'S BETTER DESTROYED THAN IN THE HANDS OF A LUNATIC. ADEQUATE JOB, BEN.

WHY DID BEYOND CHOOSE ME?

PARDON?

I WANT TO KNOW WHY *YOU* CHOSE ME.

BECAUSE OF YOUR DETERMINATION AND *STRONG* WILL.

RIGHT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HONESTY, MAXINE. I SHOULD GET BACK--I OWE JANINE SOME THAI.

OF COURSE, BEN. I'M NOTHING IF NOT A STRAIGHT SHOOTER.

RIGHT.

HEY, BABE. HATE TO BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU BUT YOU MISSED SOME AMAZING TOM YUM. GOT TO-GO BUT CAN'T PROMISE HOW WELL IT TRAVELED--

YOU OKAY, BEN?

I'M GREAT, JANINE! BEAT OTTO OCTAVIUS IN A ONE-ON-ONE. THE DRIVE HE STOLE WAS DESTROYED IN THE PROCESS, BUT AT LEAST IT WON'T FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.

HEY, DO YOU MIND CLEANING MY MASK?

UH, SURE?

GOT PRETTY DIRTY FROM ALL THE PUNCHING.

DON'T LOSE THAT.

ANYWAY, LONG DAY. GONNA TAKE THE WORLD'S LONGEST SHOWER.

A HOT SHOWER.

A GOOD SHAVE.

CRASH

AND I'LL BE A BRAND-NEW MAN.

BEYOND CORPORATION

#86 VARIANT BY
MIGUEL MERCADO

#86 BEYOND CORPORATION

SO...
SO?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
BEN?

EARLIER.

HANG TIGHT, BEN. *HELLBOMB* IS JUST CRAZY ENOUGH TO BE DANGEROUS. *BEYOND* LOGISTICS WON'T GIVE US THE GO-AHEAD UNTIL THERE'S A FIRE CONTAINMENT TEAM IN PLACE.

1ST AVE. AND ST. MARK'S PL.

BEYOND DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.

HA. NOT ALWAYS. BUT THIS IS A PERP COVERED IN HIGHLY FLAMMABLE--

CRASH!

GAAAH!

DID-- DID HE GO IN?!

UH...

--GURK!

FWOOSH

HE WENT IN!

BEN, THIS IS A 150-YEAR-OLD BUILDING! IF THAT FIRE SPREADS, WE'RE IN TROUBLE.

BEN, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!

BEN?!

FINE. I'LL START.

TWO FLOORS LOST TO FIRE DAMAGE, THREE MORE TO SMOKE. ONE OF OUR SUPPORT CREW SUSTAINED MINOR INJURIES DURING THE EVACUATION--

--THINK IT WAS A TWISTED ANKLE--

PEOPLE COULD HAVE BEEN *SERIOUSLY* HURT.

THEY *WEREN'T.*

OKAY, WHAT'S GOING ON? THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.

I'VE HAD A LOT ON MY MIND. ABOUT MY PLACE IN THE COMPANY.

WHY IS THIS COMING UP *NOW?*

TWO FLOORS UP.

YOU OKAY, BEN?

I'M GREAT, JANINE! BEAT OTTO OCTAVIUS IN A ONE-ON-ONE. THE DRIVE HE STOLE WAS DESTROYED IN THE PROCESS, BUT AT LEAST IT WON'T FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.

HEY, DO YOU MIND CLEANING MY MASK?

UH, SURE?

IT GOT REAL DIRTY.

DON'T LOSE THAT.

THEY'RE LYING TO US.

ANYWAY, LONG DAY. GONNA TAKE THE WORLD'S LONGEST SHOWER.

"WE CAN'T JUST SIT HERE IN SILENCE."

YOU'VE GOT TO TALK TO ME.

NO.

WHY?

BECAUSE YOU WORK FOR *THEM*.

AND I DON'T TRUST BEYOND. NOT ANYMORE.

CAN I TELL YOU A SECRET?

I DON'T TRUST THEM EITHER.

WH-WHAT? YOU WORK FOR THEM.

YES, BUT I'M *NOT THEM.*

I NEGOTIATED ONE HUNDRED PERCENT AUTONOMY AS A CONDITION OF MY EMPLOY.

IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT I BE ABLE TO TREAT YOU AS I SEE FIT WITH NO CORPORATE INTERFERENCE.

WE CAN SPEAK FREELY HERE. THEY'RE CONTRACTUALLY BARRED FROM MONITORING US.

WOW.

SHE ACTUALLY *BELIEVED* THAT.

ER-- SHOULD I TURN THE MICS OFF?

DON'T BE A PRUDE. THIS IS JUST GETTING GOOD.

I DON'T WANT TO MISS ANYTHING *IMPORTANT.*

"IT'S COME TO MY ATTENTION YOU'D LIKE PRIVILEGES TO LEAVE THE APARTMENT UNSUPERVISED."

I'M SHOCKED I HAVE TO REMIND YOU THAT YOU WERE EXTRICATED FROM A ***CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.***

IT WOULDN'T BE SAFE FOR EITHER OF US IF YOU WERE ALLOWED TO PRANCE DOWN OUR HALLS UNCHAPERONED. I KNOW THIS IS DISAPPOINTING...

"...BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TRUST THAT ***BEYOND KNOWS BEST.***"

...AND OTTO HAD COMPLETELY BROKEN THE ENCRYPTION. MY BEYOND DOSSIER WAS RIGHT THERE. EVERYTHING THEY THINK OF ME...

"A MORE ***MALLEABLE*** MORALITY...PERSONALITY LESS DEFINED. A HUNGER FOR MEANING THAT MAKES HIM EASILY ***MANIPULATED.***"

YOU MUST HAVE FELT VERY ***MISUNDERSTOOD.***

NO.

I FELT LIKE THEY UNDERSTOOD ME ***EXACTLY.***

I'VE ALWAYS FELT... ALWAYS ***KNOWN*** THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME. GOES WITH THE TERRITORY WHEN...

WHEN...

WHEN YOU'RE A ***CLONE.***

WH-WHAT? I'M N-NOT--

I'M NOT A CLONE.

BEN.

I--I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE--

THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU TOLD THEM.

ABOUT HOW YOU WERE RESURRECTED AND KILLED AGAIN AND AGAIN BY THE JACKAL, BEFORE TAKING ON HIS MANTLE.

BEFORE BRINGING OTHERS BACK...

OTHERS LIKE ME.

I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THAT.

NO. YOU WOULDN'T. BEYOND WANTED THEIR SPIDER-MAN TO BE SQUEAKY-CLEAN. THE MEMORIES OF THE JACKAL'S ABUSE MADE YOU MORE COMPLICATED.

BACK IN ASM: CLONE CONSPIRACY! --NL

SO THEY TOOK THEM AWAY.

WIPED YOUR MIND CLEAN.

THEY TOOK MY MEMORIES?

YES. YOU *ASKED* THEM TO. YOU WANTED TO BE NEW.

SO BEYOND REMOVED YOUR MORE *PROBLEMATIC* ADVENTURES FROM YOUR TEMPORAL LOBE.

BUT I PUT AN END TO ALL THAT WHEN I ARRIVED. IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS.

AS CLONES, OUR LIFE EXPERIENCES ARE ENMESHED IN A SCAFFOLDING OF IMPLANTED MEMORIES. PULL THE WRONG STRING, AND YOU RISK LOSING *ALL* THE IMPLANTS... THE BASIS OF YOUR PERSONALITY.

I'VE BEEN USING *THIS* TO TRY AND STITCH YOUR MIND BACK TOGETHER. SHORE UP THE SCAFFOLDING, BEYOND BE DAMNED.

THERE ARE RISKS TO DISTURBING YOUR SENSE OF REALITY. ASIDE FROM GIVING YOU AN UNFLATTERING PERSONALITY PROFILE, IT COULD BE CAUSING YOU TO FEEL DISTRUSTFUL.

THAT'S WHY YOU LASHED OUT DURING YOUR MISSION.

NO, IT'S NOT.

OH?

"THE DRIVE OTTO STOLE...

"...THERE WAS *OTHER* STUFF ON IT.

"DOCUMENTS FROM *HUNDREDS* OF SHELL COMPANIES. BEYOND IS ALMOST *CHAOTICALLY* DIVERSIFIED.

"AND THAT CHAOS IS A *COVER.*

"THE *SUPER HERO* GAME ISN'T THE *ONLY* ONE THEY'RE PLAYING.

"WE'RE ALL IN DANGER.

"WE'VE GOT TO *PROTECT* OURSELVES."

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THE *U-FOES* WEREN'T--

THAT'S ENOUGH OF *THAT*, THEN.

TEN

EEEE

PATIENT EXTRACTION IS NOW IN PROGRESS. PLEASE REMAIN CALM.

NO! YOU PROMISED!

IF YOU CANNOT REMAIN CALM, CALM WILL BE PROVIDED FOR YOU.

FT FT FT FT FT FT FT FT FT FT FT FT

ANESTHESIA ADMINISTERED. HAVE A GREAT SLEEP.

READY HIM FOR MEMO-SURGERY.

MAXINE!

YOU LIED TO ME!

P-PLEASE! DON'T DO THIS!

DON'T DO THIS TO HIM AGAIN!

JANINE!
WHERE ARE YOU? WE HAVE SOME CONCERNS ABOUT BEN--
HEY! I JUST GOT OUT OF THE SHOWER!
SORRY. SORRY! WE JUST NEED YOU TO STAY PUT.
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN *GO* ANYWHERE, IS IT?
NO, OF COURSE NOT. BUT BEN IS GOING TO BE... ***DECOMPRESSING*** FOR A WHILE. AND WE DON'T WANT YOU TO GET ANTSY.
YOU NEVER HAVE A PROBLEM TELLING ME EXACTLY WHAT TO DO, DO YOU?
WELL... WE THINK IT'S FOR THE BEST. WITH YOUR... *HISTORY.*
OH, YOU MEAN ALL THE YEARS I SPENT IN PRISON WITH ***MURDERERS*** LIKE ***ME?***
WE DON'T NEED TO GET INTO THAT--
NO...
...BUT MAYBE IT'S BEST YOU ***START REMEMBERING IT.***
J-JANINE?

WE'RE IN.

START BY SCRUBBING OCTAVIUS'S LITTLE PEP TALK, AND MOVE FORWARD FROM THERE.

PULLING THE THREAD NOW.

BEYOND DIDN'T CHOOSE YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR "STRONG WILL," BUT BECAUSE YOU'RE PSYCHOLOGICALLY COMPROMISED!

"WE GOT IT.

"SCRUB FORWARD."

MS. DANGER, IT'S MARCUS. HE'S ASKING FOR SECURITY CLEARANCE TO LEAVE WITH A GUEST.

WHAT? WHY?

HE COULDN'T GIVE DETAILS AND WAS *ADAMANT* IF THAT WAS A PROBLEM, HE DOESN'T MIND BEING DETAINED.

WHATEVER. IT'S FINE.

WAIT, WHY ARE WE BACK *THERE?* ARE YOU--

NO! THAT'S A SPONTANEOUS JUMP.

HUH? WHO THE HECK ARE *YOU*, FELLA--AND WHERE'S THE *JACKAL?*

HUH? WHO THE HECK ARE *YOU*, FELLA--AND WHERE'S THE *JACKAL?*

THERE'S AN INSTABILITY IN THE FORMATIVE MEMORIES!

DAMMIT, WHAT IS *THIS?!*

"THE MEMORIES ARE DESTABILIZING!"

HOLD IT RIGHT *THERE!*

H-HOLD IT RIGHT TH-TH-TH

STOP PULLING!

I'M *NOT!* THIS ISN'T A DEMOLITION!

"IT'S A COLLAPSE."

BEYOND CORPORATION #87

YOU WANT TO WEAR THIS AGAIN?

PROVE IT!

ARTHUR ADAMS 9-24 2021

DAY ZERO.

SHEESH, WHAT'S WITH THE STARES?

YOUR DRINKING BUDDIES NOT USED TO HAVING SUCH A *GLAMOROUS LADY* IN HERE OR SOMETHING?

I THINK IT'S THAT THEY'RE NOT USED TO SEEING SUCH A GLAMOROUS LADY PUT AWAY SO MANY *CHICKEN WINGS*, ACTUALLY.

SO YOU'RE *IN?*

I'M IN.

WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME?

LOOK. HE'S *GOING* TO GET BACK OUT THERE. *NOTHING'S* GOING TO STOP HIM. HE'S *SPIDER-MAN.*

BUT HE'S NOT *READY* YET.

AND IF HE'S NOT READY WHEN HE GETS BACK OUT THERE, HE'S GOING TO GET *DEAD.*

SO WE *MAKE* HIM READY. BECAUSE I DON'T WANT HIM TO *DIE*, CAP.

THEN LET'S GET HIM *READY.*

SAY, I DIDN'T KNOW THEY SERVED CHAMPAGNE HERE.

THEY DON'T. I BROUGHT IT FROM HOME!

DAY 1.

CLASS IS IN SESSION.

SO *LISTEN UP,* BABY.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT SCHOOL.

ESU

BUT THIS IS AN *ENTIRELY NEW* FACULTY.

SO.

I KNOW YOU'RE DYING TO GET BACK TO IT. BACK TO THE *LIFE.*

BUT YOU'RE NOT *GOING TO.* NOT UNTIL YOU PASS THE *TEST.*

I KNOW CAP AND FELICIA *MEAN WELL...*

OKAY.

IT FEELS WEIRD DOING THIS WITHOUT THE *SUIT.*

BUT THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S *LIKE.*

I'M NOT MEANT TO LIE IN A BED. I'M NOT MEANT TO *WALK.*

YOU CAN'T HAVE THE SUIT.

BUT I *WANT* THE SUIT.

MJ GAVE *ME* THE SUIT, AND I'M NOT GIVING IT TO *YOU.*

WHAT? WHY NOT?

BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE NOT SPIDER-MAN.

I'M MEANT TO SOAR.

RIGHT NOW, *HE'S* SPIDER-MAN.

"SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO* ABOUT IT?"

BEYOND CORPORATION OBSERVATION ROOM 395.

Right Now.

OKAY, BEN.

AFTER A ***READJUSTMENT***, THERE CAN SOMETIMES BE SOME TEMPORARY MNEMONIC DRIFT. WE JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE ALL SQUARED AWAY SO YOU CAN GET BACK TO DOING WHAT YOU DO BEST.

OKAY.

SHOOT.

THIS WILL BE PRETTY SIMPLE.

I'LL RUN THROUGH YOUR ROGUES' GALLERY, AND YOU NAME THEM.

HOBGOBLIN.

I CAN'T TELL WHICH ONE.

NO, THAT'S FINE, ***VILLAIN NAME*** IS ENOUGH. READY?

BEYOND

VENOM.

VERMIN.

VULTURE--

--ARE THESE IN ***ALPHABETICAL ORDER?***

NO, IT'S ON RANDOM. BUT WHAT ARE THE ODDS, RIGHT?

HRRNN. DOCTOR OCTOPUS.

DAY 2.

THERE YOU GO!

ANIMAL

MAYBE I'M NOT WEARING THE WEBS, THE BIG WHITE BUG EYES, AND THE SPIDER ON MY CHEST.

BUT I'VE GOT MY WEB-SHOOTERS, AND THE FACADES ARE STREAKING PAST ME, AND FOR A MOMENT, *THAT'S ENOUGH.*

LOOK, NOT THAT I DON'T *APPRECIATE* IT, BUT I'VE BEEN DOING THIS SINCE I WAS A *KID--*

YEAH, YEAH.

BUT YOU'RE NOT A KID ANYMORE, SPIDER. YOU'RE AN *ADULT MAN* WHO'S *BARELY PAST* A POTENTIALLY *CAREER-ENDING INJURY.*

BASICS.

FUNDAMENTALS.

YOU'RE SWINGING LIKE *EDDIE BROCK--NO STYLE,* NO *FINESSE,* JUST TRYING NOT TO *FALL.*

DON'T THINK THAT *I CAN'T TELL* YOU'RE ONE MISSED *THWIP* AWAY FROM BECOMING *STREET PIZZA.*

AND THEN THAT MOMENT *ENDS,* AND I KNOW THAT SHE'S *RIGHT.*

LUCKILY THOUGH, YOU'VE GOT ME.

BECAUSE THE BLACK CAT IS THE *SWINGING-EST* THERE IS.

DAY 3.

FELICIA'S GOOD. SHE'S *GREAT.*

GOTTA BE BETTER THAN YESTERDAY, COME ON, *COME ON!*

BUT AT *THIS?*

I'VE *ALWAYS* BEEN BETTER.

KEEP UP!

THERE ARE A *LOT* OF THINGS I'M *BAD* AT, BELIEVE ME...

SWOOSH

...BUT THIS SHOULDN'T BE *ONE OF THEM.*

AAAGHH!

KRASH

SORRY!

DAY 4.

SPROING

YOU'RE GOING TO *LOSE* ME!

YOU STILL WITH ME, SPIDER?

ALMOST--

ALMOST *GOT YOU*--

OKAY, OKAY, *SHEESH.*

LET'S TAKE A BREATHER.

HANG ON, I THINK I HAVE SOME WATER AND ORANGE SLICES IN HERE.

I'VE...

KAFF

...I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU DRINK ANYTHING BUT *CHAMPAGNE.*

YEAH, WELL, *CAP* PACKED IT.

WHAT *WAS* THAT OUT THERE? COME ON, SPIDER. YOU'VE *GOT* TO DO BETTER THAN *THAT.*

CUT ME SOME *SLACK,* OKAY?

CUT YOU SOME SLACK? WHEN HAS *SPIDER-MAN* EVER BEEN CUT ANY SLACK?

SO YOU'RE AT WHAT, *75%?*

I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU.

YOUR 75% SHOULD BE ABOUT EQUAL TO MY *100%.*

I DON'T KNOW IF I TRUST THAT MATH.

YOU HAVE *SUPER-POWERS.*

I *DON'T.*

WHAT, DID YOU FORGET? DID YOU THINK I GOT BIT BY A RADIOACTIVE *EARTHA KITT?*

YOU *DO TOO* HAVE SUPER-POWERS. IT WAS A *WHOLE THING.* REMEMBER?

SURE, A LITTLE *BAD LUCK* HERE AND THERE. BIG DEAL!

BUT YOU'RE *SPIDER-MAN.* YOU CAN DO WHATEVER A SPIDER CAN!

YOU WANT TO GET OUT THERE AGAIN? *THEN SHAPE UP!*

HEY.

WHAT?

YOU SAID I WAS SPIDER-MAN.

OKAY, SO MAYBE I *DID.*

I'M STILL NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU THE SUIT THOUGH.

OH, *COME ON!*

WE BUILD BEYOND

BEYOND CORPORATION OBSERVATION ROOM 816.
Right Now.

SO, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LET ME OUT OF HERE, *MAXINE?*

THAT *IS* THE QUESTION, ISN'T IT, *DR. KAFKA?*

WHEN *AM* I GOING TO LET YOU OUT OF HERE.

BECAUSE MAKE NO MISTAKE: *I* AM THE ONLY PERSON *IN THIS WORLD* WHO HAS THE POWER TO ALLOW YOU TO *LEAVE* THIS ROOM.

COME OFF IT, MAXINE.

I HAVE *RIGHTS.*

DO YOU, THOUGH?

AFTER ALL, DR. ASHLEY KAFKA IS *DEAD.* THE RECORDS CERTAINLY SHOW THAT.

OH, I KNOW *ALL* ABOUT DR. MALUS' FALSIFICATION OF YOUR BLOOD WORK.

I AM A *PERSON,* MAXINE.

I AM *DR. ASHLEY KAFKA--*

NO.

YOU ARE A *CLONE* OF DR. ASHLEY KAFKA.

WHICH LEAVES YOU IN A *RATHER PRECARIOUS SITUATION,* HUMAN RIGHTS-WISE.

WHICH WAS NOT A PROBLEM, WHEN BEYOND GRACIOUSLY BROUGHT YOU INTO OUR *SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.*

BUT AFTER YOUR *BETRAYAL* OF THE COMPANY...

YOU SEEM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH *BETRAYAL*, MAXINE.

WHERE COULD *THAT* COME FROM, DO YOU THINK?

WAS IT--

DON'T.

I *KILLED* AND *ATE* MY INSECURITIES IN A WILDLY *UNETHICAL* AND *EXPERIMENTAL* PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG-INDUCED *VISION QUEST* YEARS AGO.

THERE'S *NOTHING* IN MY MIND THAT YOU CAN TURN AGAINST ME.

YOU ARE *UNQUESTIONABLY GIFTED*, DR. KAFKA.

I WOULD *LIKE* TO CLEAR UP THIS INCIDENT OF INSUBORDINATION AND GET YOU BACK TO WORK.

HOWEVER, IF YOU'D RATHER *NOT* PLAY BALL...

...WELL, THE BEYOND CORPORATION CAN ALWAYS FIND A USE FOR A *CLONE.*

DAY 5.

...DON'T KNOW WHY SHE CAN'T JUST GIVE YOU THE *MASK*.

THAT'S WHAT *I'M* SAYING!

HEYYY, THERE'S THE FELLAS!

ERRR!

I'M NOT DARE DEVIL

CAP, SPIDER, THIS IS BRUNO AND THE DOC. THEY'RE GOING TO HELP US OUT WITH *TONIGHT'S EXERCISE.*

ERR. I JUST WANT TO SAY, YOU WERE AN *INSPIRATION* TO ME WHEN I WAS IN THE ARMY, SIR.

WHAT WAS YOUR M.O.S., SOLDIER?

HELICOPTER PILOT, SIR.

I'LL BET IT WAS THE ARMY'S LOSS WHEN YOU MUSTERED OUT.

OH, *ER*, NOT REALLY...

BRUNO, GIVE THE MAN SOME AIR.

ALL RIGHT, SPIDER. WE'RE GOING TO SEE HOW WELL YOU *WORK TOGETHER* HERE.

MAKE SURE CAP DOESN'T BONK YOU IN THE HEAD AGAIN, YEAH?

JEWELRY

OKAY.

SO, WHAT ARE WE *DOING?*

I'M NOT DARE DEVIL

OH, RIGHT.

YOU JUST HAVE TO CATCH THE CROOKS, BOYS.

BECAUSE WE JUST ROBBED THIS PLACE.

HERE WE GO!

SKREEEEEECH

I'M NO DAR DEV

THWP

RIGHT NOW.

SHRIEK.

RHINO.

SHOCKER.

KRAVEN.

LIZARD.

CARRION.

DAY 6.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.

THE ENTIRE 2ND PANZER DIVISION COULDN'T HURT ME.

DO YOUR WORST.

WOOOO!

GO ON, SPIDER! KILL THE BUM!

GOOD--

NOT BAD--

HMM.

YOU'RE *FASTER* THAN THAT.

I KNOW YOU PULL YOUR PUNCHES WHEN YOU'RE FIGHTING AVERAGE FOLKS--

--AND YOU SHOULD--

--BUT THAT'S *NOT* WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE.

I'M *NOT.*

THIS IS AS *FAST* AS I CAN *GO.*

AS FAST AS YOU CAN GO *RIGHT NOW.*

YOU'RE USED TO BEING *SPIDER-MAN,* SON. YOU'RE NOT THERE YET.

BUT WE'LL *GET YOU THERE.*

I KNOW EVERY-ONE'S SICK OF MY *WAR STORIES* BY NOW.

BUT I'LL TELL YOU THIS: I SAW A LOT OF YOUNG MEN *THEN* WHO WEREN'T READY, AND WHO PAID THE PRICE FOR IT.

BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE AN OPTION. THEY WERE *NEEDED,* AND THEY *ANSWERED THE CALL,* AND IT DIDN'T *MATTER* IF THEY WEREN'T READY.

BUT YOU'VE GOT THE *TIME.* AND YOU'VE GOT THE COACHES.

SO *HIT ME,* SOLDIER.

AND IT BETTER BE LIKE YOU *MEAN IT,* BECAUSE I'M NOT ABOUT TO MAKE IT *EASY* FOR YOU.

RIGHT NOW.

THAT SHOULD DO IT!

I'LL JUST TAKE *THESE* BACK...

THAT'S IT! YOU'RE CLEARED FOR THE FIELD.

YOU MUST BE RARING TO GO, I'LL BET.

LIKE YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY, "WITH GREAT POWER, THERE MUST ALSO COME..."

I DON'T GET IT.

WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME *WHAT?*

I'VE *ALWAYS* BEEN GOOD AT SCHOOL.

TESTS, EXAMS, WHATEVER.

IT'S *ALWAYS* BEEN MY THING.

BUT *THIS ONE'S* KILLING ME.

I FEEL MY LIGAMENTS CREAKING. MY JOINTS SHUDDERING. MY HEART HAMMERING.

I'M NOT READY.

BUT I *HAVE* TO BE, IF I WANT TO BE *SPIDER-MAN.*

TWO BURGLARS. NO PROBLEM.

NO PROBLEM FOR *SPIDER-MAN.*

NO PROB--

OOFFF!

THWIPP

OOFFF!

THAT WAS A GOOD HIT...

...BUT YOU'RE NOT GETTING OUT OF *THIS ONE.*

OKAY, OKAY, UNCLE!

=KAFF=

=HAKK=

GOD.

YOU OKAY, SPIDER?

TAKE A MINUTE, SON. WE'LL RUN IT AGAIN WHEN YOU'RE READY.

I CAN SEE IT ON THEIR FACES. THEY'RE *DISAPPOINTED*, SECOND-GUESSING THEMSELVES. AND *ME*.

I SHOULD HAVE DONE BETTER.

I *HAVE* TO DO BETTER.

NEVER GIVE UP.

I'M GOOD.

LET'S GO AGAIN.

BECAUSE I'M SPIDER-MAN.

EPILOGUE.
Right Now.

"MAKE SURE TO DRY-CLEAN THAT COSTUME," SHE SAYS.

GOD. FELICIA HARDY.

WHAT A--

AHHH!!

HEY, MJ.

WHY IS MARY JANE WEARING A BLACK CAT COSTUME? BETTER PICK UP **MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: BEYOND!** --NL

WE NEED TO *TALK.*

ALSO... *WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?*

MJ Watson

DOWN IN FLAMES 2

MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: *BEYOND* VARIANT BY
PEACH MOMOKO

BEYOND CORPORATION

MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: BEYOND

Eight hours to sunup.

NOW, NORMALLY, WHEN SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT IS IN THE HOSPITAL, YOU SEND FLOWERS. CARDS.

MAYBE HANG OUT AND WATCH A FEW EPISODES OF *THE SAINT* ON RERUNS.

BUT A SUPER HERO? EVEN ONE WHO'S THERE INCOGNITO?

YOU CAN'T LEAVE THEM ALONE.

SURE, THERE'S PROBABLY BAD GUYS GUNNING FOR THEM. BUT SO FAR AS I KNOW, I'M THE BADDEST ONE OUT THERE WHO KNOWS WHO SPIDER REALLY IS.

NO, THE REASON YOU NEED TO HAVE PEOPLE KEEPING EYES ON GUYS LIKE HIM...

...IS TO *KEEP* HIM THERE.

SPIDER'S GOING TO GET BACK OUT THERE.

RUNNING THE ROOFTOPS, THROWING DOWN WITH BAD GUYS, ALL THAT MISGUIDED SUPER HERO *NONSENSE*.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY: TAKING HIS NAME BACK.

WE'RE ALL WORKING TO GET HIM BACK OUT THERE, GET HIM READY, GET HIM UP TO WHAT SPIDER-MAN *NEEDS* TO BE.

BUT HE'S NOT READY *YET*. AND IF THERE'S NOT SOMEONE WATCHING HIM LIKE A HAWK...

YO RED, IS HE ASLEEP?

...THEN LICKETY-SPLIT, HE'LL GUILT HIMSELF RIGHT OUT THAT WINDOW, BACK INTO THE FIGHT...

...AND GET HIMSELF *DEAD*.

COME ON IN, FELICIA.

OR SHOULD I SAY, BLACK CAT.

YOU GOT A NAME, *DEAD MAN?*

WE'RE *OLD FRIENDS*, FELICIA. THOUGH MAYBE YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME IN MY...*REDUCED CIRCUMSTANCES.*

PARKER ROBBINS. *THE HOOD.*

UH-OH.

AND THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH. LET ME TELL YOU HOW THIS IS GOING TO GO.

I'M SURE YOU HEARD THAT I *LOST* SOMETHING A LITTLE WHILE AGO. SOMETHING *NEAR AND DEAR* TO ME.

WELL, I GOT TO THINKING. WHO'S GOT THE REP? THE REP THAT SAYS "WHATEVER YOU WANT, SHE CAN GET IT FOR YOU"?

WHY, THE *BLACK CAT,* OF COURSE.

AND WHEN I FOUND OUT THE BLACK CAT WAS VISITING SOME *WASHED-UP PHOTOGRAPHER* IN THE HOSPITAL, SOME NOBODY SHE OBVIOUSLY *CARED FOR,* I GOT TO THINKING *MORE.*

YOU'RE GOING TO GET ME MY HOOD *BACK*, BLACK CAT.

AND YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT BY *SUNUP*. OR I PUT A *BULLET* IN THIS GUY'S *BRAINPAN*.

THEN I PUT A SECOND ONE THROUGH MODERATELY FAMOUS ACTRESS *MARY JANE WATSON'S* HEAD.

YOU *GET* ME?

YEAH. OKAY.

YOU GOT IT, ROBBINS.

ONE THING, THOUGH: I NEED THE GIRL.

WHAT? *WHY?*

SHE'S IN MY *CREW*, YOU CREEP. I NEED HER FOR THE JOB.

OKAY.

BUT DON'T SCREW ME ON THIS, FELICIA.

YOUR LITTLE FRIEND OVER HERE IS BETTING HIS *LIFE* THAT YOU WON'T.

TWO THINGS. WE'LL GET YOUR HOOD OR WHATEVER.

BUT YOU DON'T POINT YOUR GUN AT HIM. OR WE'LL *KNOW.*

OH YEAH? HOW?

MAGIC, PSYCHIC POWERS, MUTANT ABILITIES, TAKE YOUR PICK! IT DOESN'T MATTER.

SURE. *WHY NOT.* I CAN AFFORD TO BE GRACIOUS.

SUNUP, BLACK CAT. AND DON'T EVEN *THINK* ABOUT CALLING FOR HELP.

I HAVE *LITERALLY* NOTHING TO LOSE.

"SHE'S IN THE CREW"?

HOW THE HELL *ELSE* WAS I GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF THERE?

I DON'T LIKE LEAVING THE *HOOD* WITH *SPIDER*, BUT LEAVING *YOU* THERE? HE'D *NEVER* FORGIVE ME.

AND WHAT WAS WITH ALL THAT *GUN-POINTING* STUFF?

SHE DOESN'T SAY IT.

THAT CREEP POINTS A GUN AT PETER AND HIS *SPIDER-SENSE* GOES OFF. HE'LL POP RIGHT OUT OF BED BEFORE HE'S EVEN AWAKE.

AND HE'S NOT IN *ANY* SHAPE TO DEAL WITH THAT RIGHT NOW.

AH. RIGHT.

OF COURSE SHE DOESN'T.

SO WHAT'S THE PLAN, CAT?

SHE'S *PERFECT* AFTER ALL.

THE *PLAN* IS FOR *YOU* TO GO SOMEWHERE SAFE AND LAY LOW UNTIL *I* SORT ALL THIS OUT.

SHE DOESN'T SAY IT.

NO WAY.

SHE DOESN'T SAY THAT THIS IS *MY FAULT.*

LOOK, RED, I LOVE THE ENERGY. *REAL* GREAT STUFF.

BUT I'M A *PROFESSIONAL.* AND YOU'RE AN *ACTRESS.*

YOU'RE NOT *REALLY* IN THE CREW.

THERE'S A CRAZY GUY IN THERE WITH A GUN ON PETER.

DO YOU *REALLY* THINK I'M GOING TO "*LAY LOW*"? AND DO YOU *REALLY* HAVE THE TIME TO *ARGUE* WITH ME?

SO *YEAH.* I THINK I *AM* IN THE CREW.

FINE.

HAVE IT *YOUR WAY,* RED.

BUT YOU BETTER NOT SLOW ME DOWN.

YAAAAAY!

Seven hours to sunup.

SO, SPOILERS:

THE HOOD GOT INTO IT WITH *HAWKEYE* A LITTLE WHILE AGO.* LOTS OF RUCKUS ON THE STREETS, LOTS OF SPILT BLOOD. PRETTY UGLY SITUATION, ALL TOLD.

*IN *HAWKEYE: FREEFALL*, --NO CHUTE LOWE!

AT THE END OF IT, THE HOOD WAS SANS HIS SIGNATURE ITEM OF CLOTHING, WHICH MEANT HE WAS SANS HIS EVIL MAGIC POWERS.

NO EVIL MAGIC POWERS, NO CRIME BOSS.

NOW, *HOW* EXACTLY DID PLUCKY ARCHER CLINT BARTON TAKE DOWN A MUG WITH THE KIND OF JUICE THAT THE HOOD HAD?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.

SO GOOD, IN FACT, THAT IT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO ASK THE GUY THAT THE STREETS SAY WAS *INSTRUMENTAL* IN RESOLVING THAT LITTLE DUSTUP.

COUNT LUCHINO NEFARIA.

NOT A GUY YOU WANT TO MESS WITH.

AND *NOT* A GUY YOU WANT TO BUG ON MOVIE NIGHT.

HIYA, COUNT...

...DID I MISS THE TRAILERS?

MS. HARDY.

PRAY TELL, WHAT COULD *POSSIBLY* POSSESS YOU TO INTERRUPT MY *SOLE RESPITE* FROM THE STRESSFUL LIFE OF A CRIMINAL OVERLORD?

I APOLOGIZE FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR MOVIE, COUNT. BUT I'M UP AGAINST THE WALL HERE AND RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

I NEED TO KNOW HOW YOU HELPED HAWKEYE BEAT THE HOOD.

MY "HELP" COST CLINTON BARTON *THREE MILLION DOLLARS.* DO YOU HAVE THREE MILLION DOLLARS WITH *YOU?*

I CAN *GET* IT FOR YOU, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT. IT'LL TAKE ME A FEW DAYS THOUGH, A WEEK MAYBE.

THEN COME AND SEE ME WHEN YOU HAVE IT. AND MAKE AN *APPOINTMENT.*

I NEED TO KNOW *TONIGHT,* COUNT.

WELL. HOW UNFORTUNATE FOR YOU, THEN.

GOOD *BYE,* MS. HARDY.

HEY, ARE YOU WATCHING *DIG THAT CRAZY GRAVE?*

ISN'T SONNY DIPERNA GREAT IN IT?

IS THAT... MARY JANE WATSON?

OH BROTHER...

THE MARY JANE WATSON?

MS. WATSON. AN ABSOLUTE PLEASURE.

YOU WORKED WITH DIPERNA IN *UP IN SMOKE, DOWN IN FLAMES!* SAD ABOUT THE PREMIERE, BY THE WAY.*

*IT GOT INTERRUPTED IN *SINISTER WAR #1!* --IN-THE-KNOW KNICK!

MINIONS!

A SEAT FOR MS. WATSON!

SONNY DIPERNA IS MY *FAVORITE* ACTOR, MS. WATSON. HE IS A *GENIUS*, AN *ARTIST*, A *TREASURE*.

PLEASE, MY DEAR. YOU *MUST* TELL ME *ALL ABOUT* HIM.

HE'S *SUCH* A GENTLEMAN, COUNT. BUT HE HAS AN *EDGE*, YOU CAN TELL...

MY DEAR, YOU *MUST* CALL ME *LUCHINO*...

THIS MIGHT TAKE A WHILE, BOYS.

I GOT THE LIST YOU WANTED, BOSS. EVERYONE WHO WAS THERE THE DAY THE HOOD LOST HIS JUICE.

LOVE IT. WHO DO WE GOT?

"ARMADILLO, FANCY DAN, OX, MR. FEAR--"

"GROSS."

"--SHOCKER, RHINO, AND TOMBSTONE."

"YIKES. LOOKS LIKE WE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US."

"SO, HERE'S THE SCOOP, FELICIA.

"THE HOOD'S...ERR... *HOOD* IS SOME KIND OF DEMON THING, GAVE HIM DEMONIC POWERS.

"SO HAWKEYE HAD TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE. HE WENT TO LUCHINO-- *COUNT NEFARIA*--

"--WHO IS AN *ABSOLUTE DOLL*. I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT HIM--

"--AND BOUGHT *ANOTHER* DEMON FROM HIM. A DEMON THAT *ATE* THE EVIL HOOD, LEAVING ROBBINS OUT OF LUCK.

"THIS DEMON WAS IN THE SHAPE OF A *DUFFLE BAG*, AND NO ONE'S SEEN IT SINCE.

"WE RUN DOWN THE PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE THAT DAY, AND WE FIND THE BAG-SLASH-DEMON. WE FIND *THAT*, WE FIND THE HOOD."

Two hours to sunup.

SO WHO'S LEFT?

THE *WORST* ONE.

TOMBSTONE.

AND TOMBSTONE, WE CAN'T CHARM, CAN'T CON, CAN'T BEAT DOWN.

TOMBSTONE, WE HAVE TO *ROB.*

WELL, GOOD THING WE HAVE THE BEST THIEF IN TOWN ON OUR SIDE!

YOU *ARE* THE BEST THIEF IN TOWN, RIGHT?

BITE YOUR TONGUE. OF *COURSE* I AM.

BUT HERE'S THE THING:

TOMBSTONE'S SMARTER THAN ALL THOSE OTHER IDIOTS *PUT TOGETHER.*

HE'S GOT HIS EAR TO THE STREETS. *ALWAYS.*

THE WAY WE'VE BEEN TEARING THROUGH THE UNDERWORLD TONIGHT? HE'S GOING TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER.

"HE'S GOING TO *KNOW* THAT WE'RE *COMING FOR HIM.*

"AND HE'LL BE *WAITING.*"

SHING

SO.

YOU READY TO *SUIT UP,* RED?

"YOU KNOW I AM."

PSSHHH

AH!

I KNEW IT.

YOU AFTER MY *PET DEMON*, LITTLE KITTY?

I KNEW IT WOULD COME IN HANDY *EVENTUALLY*, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD DELIVER THE *BLACK CAT* RIGHT *TO* ME.

NOW. THEY TELL ME THERE'S MORE THAN *ONE* WAY TO *SKIN A CAT*. WHY DON'T YOU AND I FIND OUT *TOGETHER?*

KLIK

LOVE TO, BABY.

BUT I'M ON A TIMELINE. AND YOU'RE *TOO SLOW.*

I *ALREADY* RIPPED YOU OFF.

HOW--?

NO ONE'S *THAT* GOOD--

THAT'S THE THING, TOMBSTONE.

THE BLACK CAT *IS* THAT GOOD!

RACE YOU TO THE BOTTOM!

NO WAY.

NO ONE DOES *TOMBSTONE* LIKE THAT!

HAS SHE DONE SOMETHING WITH HER HAIR?

LOT OF PEOPLE MAKE FUN OF THE MASK.

BUT THE TRUTH IS, PEOPLE ARE *LAZY.*

OUR BRAINS WORK IN SHORTHAND.

WE SEE SOMETHING WE RECOGNIZE, AND OUR BRAINS LOCK ON TO THAT DETAIL.

AND EVERYTHING ELSE, WE FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH WHAT WE *EXPECT.*

YOU'RE IN A HIGH-STRESS SITUATION AND YOU SEE WHITE HAIR, A CHIC CATSUIT, AND THAT LITTLE MASK...

...YOUR BRAIN TELLS YOU:

"THAT'S THE BLACK CAT."

NO MATTER ALL THE PARTS THAT *DON'T* MATCH UP.

AND THAT'S *WITHOUT* BRINGING IN SOMEONE WHO MAKES A *LIVING* BEING OTHER PEOPLE.

AFTER ALL, SHE'S A *PROFESSIONAL.*

AND SO, THE OSCAR FOR "BEST PERFORMANCE IN A CRIMINAL ENDEAVOR"?

RAAGGH!

Mary Jane Watson.

Ninety minutes to sunup.

WELL, WE GOT THE BAG.

DEMON.

SURE. NOW WHAT?

NOW, RED, WE TRY AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE IT COUGH UP ROBBINS' HOOD.

WHAT DO YOU SAY, YOU HORRIBLE THING?

WE GOT YOU OUT OF TOMBSTONE'S SAFE. WHAT'S IT GOING TO TAKE TO GET YOU TO PLAY BALL?

I thought you'd never ask.

Fifteen minutes to sunup.

TOUGH LUCK, PAL.

LOOKS LIKE YOUR GIRLFRIENDS DROPPED THE...

...BALL?

NOT SO FAST.

TA-DAAA!

TAKE THAT OFF.

HOW'D YOU DO IT?

WELL, WE *BUSTED OUR ASSES* ALL NIGHT, SO THERE WAS THAT.

BUT REALLY, ROBBINS, IT'S ALL JUST DOWN TO *WANTING.*

YOU CAN GET *ANYTHING* IN THIS WORLD, IF YOU KNOW WHAT SOMEONE WANTS, AND IF YOU CAN GET IT FOR *THEM.*

YOU WANTED YOUR HOOD BACK. NEFARIA WANTED HOT HOLLYWOOD GOSS. TOMBSTONE WANTED TO SKIN ME ALIVE SO BAD HE TOOK HIS EYE OFF THE PRIZE.

AHHH...

EVEN THE BAG-DEMON.

IT WANTED SOMETHING TOO.

WAIT, THIS IS *WRONG--*

AFTER IT ATE YOUR *HOOD*, IT GOT A TASTE FOR THE *OWNER*.

IT WANTED THE COMPLETE SET.

LIKE I SAID, ROBBINS.

YOU GET SOMEONE WHAT *THEY* WANT, YOU GET WHAT *YOU* WANT.

AND I WANTED *YOU* OUT OF *MY HAIR.*

THAT WAS HORRIBLE.

ARE YOU KIDDING? THAT WAS *GREAT.*

HOW DID HE SLEEP THROUGH ALL OF THAT?

PLEASE.

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND I HAVE BEEN PUTTING HIM THROUGH THE *WRINGER.** SPIDER WAKING UP ON HIS OWN WAS THE *LEAST* OF MY WORRIES.

*IN *ASM #87.* --NO BURPEES NICK

SNRRKK.

--HUH? WHU?

OH. OKAY.

IT'S *THIS* DREAM AGAIN.

BE GENTLE, PLEASE.

YOU DID GOOD, RED.

"WELL."

SHUT IT.

I MEAN, I WASN'T SURE IF YOUR *DUMP TRUCK ASS* WOULD FIT IN ONE OF MY SUITS, BUT HEY, WE MADE IT IT WORK.

HEY!

I CAN'T BELIEVE SOME OF THE STUFF WE GOT UP TO TONIGHT. I *ALMOST* FEEL BAD FOR WHAT WE DID TO THE SHOCKER.

DON'T. EVERYONE DOES THAT TO THE SHOCKER, THAT'S WHAT HE'S *FOR.*

I'LL ADMIT IT. IT WAS KIND OF FUN BEING THE *BAD GIRL* FOR A NIGHT.

FELICIA? ARE YOU OKAY?

"THE BAD GIRL."

I *HATE* THAT *THAT'S* WHAT I AM IN HIS LIFE. HIS HISTORY.

I'M NOT *JEALOUS* OF YOU. I'M NOT TRYING TO GET HIM *BACK.*

BUT OUR TIME TOGETHER WAS *IMPORTANT* TO ME. IT WAS PART OF WHAT MADE ME *WHO I AM.* HE WAS THE *FIRST MAN* I EVER LOVED.

BUT FROM THE OUTSIDE?

I'M "THE BAD GIRL."

THE DISTRACTION, UNTIL THE *GOOD GIRL* WINS IN THE END. THE *PERFECT* ONE.

IT *SUCKS.*

SNRRKK...!

WHAT--?

WHAT THE *HELL* ARE *YOU* LAUGHING AT?

OH GOD...

IT'S JUST...

I KNOW *EXACTLY* HOW YOU FEEL.

I WAS THE BAD GIRL *FIRST!*

HAHA HAHAHA!

I WAS THE *PARTY GIRL*, ALWAYS GETTING INTO TROUBLE SOMEWHERE.

AND THEN THERE WAS *GWEN STACY.*

AND *SHE* WAS *PERFECT.*

I'M NOT EXAGGERATING. SHE *WAS.*

HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO LIVE UP TO THE MEMORY OF A *DEAD GIRL?*

YOU'RE STILL IMPORTANT TO HIM, FELICIA.

HELL, YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO *ME.* I WOULDN'T HAVE PUT MY LIFE IN YOUR HANDS TONIGHT IF YOU *WEREN'T.*

YOU'RE NOT A *FOOTNOTE* IN *ANYONE'S* LIFE.

...

THANKS.

UGH.

YOU *ARE* PERFECT, *AREN'T* YOU.

YUP. AND DON'T YOU *FORGET* IT.

Sunup.

GOD.

HOW DOES *THAT NERD* KEEP PULLING IN BABES LIKE *US?*

I THINK IT'S BECAUSE HE KEEPS GETTING *BEAT UP* ALL THE TIME.

LIKE A *PITY THING.*

HA!

ARTHUR ADAMS
10 19
2021

8:30 A.M.-- PLANT THE SEED IN OUR STAR.

WE DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU WHILE YOU WERE RECOVERING. JANINE LEFT.

BUT *WHY*, MAXINE?

WE DON'T KNOW. WE HOPED *YOU* MIGHT.

SHE DIDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING.

WE'LL FIND HER, BEN. JUST STAY CALM FOR ME, OKAY?

8:45 A.M.-- RATTLE THE IDIOT.

I-I TRIED TO SEND YOU A SIGNAL, BUT SHE HAD A KNIFE TO MY THROAT.

WE GOT A COUPLE BLOCKS AWAY, I GAVE HER SOME MONEY, AND THEN SHE WAS GONE. I DON'T KNOW--

--ANYTHING *WE* DON'T. THE ASSUMPTIONAUTS HAVE SURMISED SHE'S ABSCONDED WITH A DRIVE FULL OF BEYOND'S SECRETS.

I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHY JANINE LEFT.

9:00 A.M.-- ADDRESS THE BOARD.

THE DRIVE COULD WIPE OUT A THIRD OF OUR HOLDINGS IF THE INFORMATION GETS OUT.

YOU HAVE LET THE HERO DIVISION GET AWAY FROM YOU, MAXINE.

OR I HAVE GIVEN US THE PERFECT USE CASE FOR IT. I'M EXECUTING THE HALIFAX PROTOCOL.

THAT *IS* THE POINT OF OUR *SECOND* DIVISION, ISN'T IT?

THAT DIVISION ISN'T YOURS. NOT YET. THE ASSESSOR--

CONSIDER THIS A TEST. IF I FAIL I ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY.

10:00 A.M.-- INITIATE HALIFAX PROTOCOL.

IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, I'M HOLDING YOU ALL RESPONSIBLE.

MAXINE, THE SUBSTANCE WAS *HIGHLY METAPHYSICAL* IN STRUCTURE. WE HAD TO BRING IN DISCIPLINES FROM ACROSS BEYOND.

WAS IT AS ADVERTISED?

YES. UNEQUIVOCALLY THE SUBSTANCE IS THE *SINS* OF NORMAN OSBORN.

HOW DID THE SUBJECT REACT?

GROTESQUELY. LIKE *REALLY* BAD.

SIN-EATER BLASTED THEM OUT IN **ASM #851!** --NL

11:30 A.M. UNLEASH HELL.

THAT'S *FANTASTIC.*

THUD

MY, MY, MY...

LOOK AT YOU, QUEEN.

QUEEN GOBLIN. YES. I LIKE THAT.

AND THEY SAID I COULDN'T DO *VILLAINS.*

12:00 P.M. LUNCH.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING...

I STOPPED BY THE PHARMA DEPARTMENT FOR A SHOT OF SUPER B.

IT'S ONE OF THOSE DAYS YOU WORK TOWARD, AND I WANT TO ENJOY IT.

I'M STILL NOT CLEAR ON IF I'M ALLOWED TO LEAVE.

A-AM I ALLOWED TO LEAVE?

OUR LITTLE JAILBIRD HAS GIVEN ME THE PERFECT EXCUSE TO EXECUTE A PRODUCT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON FOR MONTHS.

S-SO THIS IS ABOUT *JANINE?* I TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS.

I KNOW, SWEETIE.

BUT *WE* DO.

DAILY BUGLE.

THANKS FOR MEETING ME.

NOT A PROBLEM, MARY JANE. I'M THE BOSS WHILE ROBBIE'S AWAY. I'D BE WASTING IT IF I DIDN'T TAKE A LONG LUNCH.

I'M SORRY. I WASN'T REALLY ASKING YOU TO LUNCH. IT'S ABOUT A STORY, AND IT'S SENSITIVE.

THERE'S SOMEONE YOU NEED TO MEET.

GLORY GRANT, THIS IS *JANINE GODBE.*

HELLO.

OKAY, YOU GOT ME.

WHAT'S THIS *ABOUT?*

BEN! HOW WE DOING? HEARD WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR LADY TODAY. I'M UPLOADING SOME LEADS INTO YOUR NAV NOW.

I'M LEAVING IN FIVE, WHETHER YOU GUYS ARE READY OR NOT.

OH. OKAY, YEAH. IN A HURRY. I GET IT.

DO WANT TO MAKE YOU AWARE OF A NEW VILLAIN THAT'S BEEN SPOTTED IN THE AREA.

WANNA MAKE SURE YOU'RE SET UP IN CASE YOU RUN INTO HER. LOVE THAT US NERDS GET TO STICK IT TO THE BULLIES NOW.

WHAT?

OH, SORRY. YOU USED TO GET BULLIED IN SCHOOL TOO, RIGHT? I THOUGHT YOU SAID--

I'M LEAVING. YOU CAN UPLOAD THE REST OVER THE AIR.

S-SURE, BEN. WHATEVER YOU SAY.

SHE'S AT THE *BUGLE?*

AND THAT'S BAD.

BECAUSE WHATEVER IS ON THAT DRIVE IS ***BAD,*** RIGHT?

WE FIND HIGHLY MORALIZED WORDS LIKE "BAD" UNPRODUCTIVE FOR HIGH-LEVEL THINKING.

HAVE WE BEEN DOING SOMETHING UNETHICAL HERE?

I'M ASKING YOU A QUESTION.

DO YOU KNOW WHO ***JASON HALIFAX*** IS?

NO.

SHOULD I?

OH, YES. YES, YOU SHOULD.

HE WAS THE C.E.O. OF A BIG OIL COMPANY. BUILT A SUPER-MANSION IN BROXTON, OKLAHOMA.

RUMOR HAD IT SOME VERY NOT FUNNY THINGS WERE GOING ON AT THAT MANSION, THERE WERE BODIES. THE COPS TAPED IT OFF. THE OIL COMPANY PREPARED A STATEMENT...

THEN NORMAN OSBORN ATTACKED ASGARD A MILE AND A HALF FROM HIS HOUSE.

BACK IN **SIEGE!** --NL.

THE SENTRY THREW A TANK AT THOR, *BLAH BLAH*, LIGHTNING, ***THE VOID...*** AND THE HALIFAX HOUSE WAS WIPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE ***BODIES?***

HOW DID THEY ***GET*** THERE?

WHO CARED? ***NOBODY.*** BECAUSE THE SENTRY AND THOR.

THE SUPER HERO THING IS ***FUN.*** WE GET TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY. CORPORATE CHARITY. MAGAZINE COVERS. PATS ON THE BACK.

BUT WE ARE ***BEYOND.*** WE SELL ***PRODUCTS.***

THE SUPER HERO DIVISION IS SMOKE?

A BEYOND BRANDED META-PRODUCT THAT CONTROLS THE NEWS CYCLE AND CAN MAKE PEOPLE, BUILDINGS--HOPEFULLY ***CONTINENTS***, EVENTUALLY--DISAPPEAR, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDS IT--AND CAN PAY. OF COURSE, HAVING IT LAYING AROUND FOR SITUATIONS LIKE ***THIS*** DOESN'T HURT EITHER.

BUT TO DO WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT--SUPER HEROES WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH.

YOU'D NEED ***VILLAINS*** TOO.

SH-SHE BIT ME!

SHE BIT ME!

MEDIC!

THAT'S WHY WE CONFIRM THE PRESENCE OF A BITE CLAMP, JERRY! SHE'S GOING LIVE IN THREE!

IDIOT.

SHE PROGRAMMED?

YEP. THE SIGNALS SHOULD EXPRESS THEMSELVES AS OVERPOWERING INSTINCTS.

SHE WON'T KNOW WHY SHE'S ATTACKING THE TARGETS, BUT SHE WON'T *QUESTION* IT EITHER.

I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT. READY FOR LAUNCH?

RETRACTING.

LOWER GLIDER.

HERE WE GO.

WAIT-- H-HOW'D SHE GET HER MACE?!

YOU SAID WE WERE GOING LIVE?!

LIVE DOESN'T MEAN--

SHHZAARK

CRASH

AIIIEEEEEEEE

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

I DON'T THINK SHE BELIEVED ME.

SHE BELIEVED YOU. BUT THESE ARE ***HUGE*** ALLEGATIONS. SHE'LL NEED TO RUN IT UPSTAIRS. AND SHE'S ONLY JUST BEGUN TO GRILL YOU.

SHE'LL NEED THE DRIVE, AND PROBABLY A FEW MONTHS TO CATALOG EVERYTHING. DOT THE I's AND CROSS THE--

JANINE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

CHECKING FOR BUGS. IN CASE GLORY, ***YOU KNOW...*** BEYOND HAS A LOT OF SUBSIDIARIES.

I'M SORRY.

NO, IT'S OKAY.

THINGS HAVE BEEN HARD FOR YOU, YEAH? OUT THERE?

I THINK ABOUT HOW HARD IT IS FOR ME AND PETER A LOT. BUT YOU AND BEN--

IT NEVER FELT LIKE THE WORLD WANTED US TOGETHER.

NO...IT'S MORE THAN THAT. LIKE MAYBE THE WORLD DIDN'T WANT ***US*** PERIOD.

IT'S FUNNY, GOING TO YOU FOR HELP. I SPENT A LOT OF TIME MAD AT YOU JUST FOR HAVING THINGS WE DIDN'T.

JANINE...

WHAT?

SHK!

HAHAHAHAHA!

A-ARE YOU HERE FOR ME OR HER?

NEITHER.

NO!

THE DRIVE!

BEEP BEEP

OOP. THAT'S ME.

OUR *TEST RUN* IS UNDERWAY. LET YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES.

MAXINE, WAIT...

I HAVE TO *INSIST* YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON. WITH ME, IN PARTICULAR.

AM I BEING DETAINED? BECAUSE I DON'T THINK YOU CAN *DO* THAT.

MAXINE?

SLAM

CA-CHUNK

PHASE ONE IS A GO.

WHERE'S SPIDER-MAN?

WE'VE BEEN NAV-ING HIM AROUND THE CITY, WAITING FOR YOUR WORD.

SEND HIM IN.

CHK

FOR YEARS, I LISTENED AS MY WHIMPERING PATIENTS CRIED OVER HORRORS LONG PAST.

I'D OFTEN WONDER HOW A PARENT COULD HURT A CHILD. BE SO CRUEL. BUT NOW, SEEING THE TWO OF YOU COWERING IN FRONT OF ME. POWERLESS.

I GET IT.

WE HAVE TO RUN, JANINE.

IT'S THEM. *BEYOND*. THEY THINK THEY CAN DO WHATEVER THEY WANT.

I CAN'T LET THEM *WIN*...

JANINE?

YOU DON'T GET TO WIN!

I'M NOT LOOKING TO WIN...

...I JUST WANT TO SEE YOUR BRAIN.

THWP

WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING *OUTRAGEOUS* FOR MY BIG ENTRANCE...

...BUT THE BRAIN COMMENT REALLY KILLED THE VIBE.

JUST WAY TOO FAR.

BEN.

I--I *KNOW* YOU...

CLIFFORD, RIGHT? PRETTY SURE THAT'S IT, BECAUSE I'M DEFINITELY LOOKING AT A BIG RED DOG.

BEN!

YOU WERE NEVER FUNNY!

OKAY, YEAH, I GUESS THAT WAS MORE *MEAN*, BUT YOU HAVE TO ADMIT--

--IT WAS FUNNIER THAN *THIS!*

POW

LOOK AT THEM GO. "DAILY BUGLE *DESTROYED IN SUPER-POWERED BATTLE.*" IT'S PERFECT.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE DRIVE.

BEAMFORMING AGGRESSION TOWARD TARGET B.

CA-SHANK

AAAAHH!

OKAY, YOU GOT ME. THESE ARE KIND OF COOL.

OOF!

YOUR BOY IS PLAYING WITH MY TOYS...

SO I GET YOURS!

WHAT?

NO!

CLANK

SMASH

THE DRIVE!

THEY ALWAYS WIN...

EH...

NOT YET.

YOU'RE SAFE NOW, JANINE. I'M GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE.

UH... GUYS?

SHE'S GETTING UP.

ARE YOU GONNA DO SOMETHING?

EH. THE WAY I SEE IT, THAT'S NOT *OUR* PROBLEM.

WAIT, *WHAT* DID HE SAY?

BEN, WHAT DO YOU MEAN? SHE'S DANGEROUS!

YOU'RE RIGHT...

WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!

BEN!

H-HE JUST LEFT...

DON'T WORRY...

...I'M STILL HERE.

BEYOND CORPORATION

#88.BEY

THEN.

"I MEAN, IT WAS A STRAIGHT-UP HORROR MOVIE OUT THERE.*

"TOTAL BAZONKERS CRAZY.

BE STILL, BABY. THEY DON'T KNOW WE'RE HERE. THEY DON'T SEE--

THESE EVENTS TOOK PLACE DURING **KING IN BLACK!** --DK

"FINDING *SPIDER-MAN* IN ALL THAT? NOPE.

OH NO. OH, DEAR GOD, NO!

SKRREEEEEEE!

"SYMBIOTES EVERYWHERE, RUSHING ANYTHING THAT MOVED.

"*THE AVENGERS* DEFINITELY HAD THEIR HANDS FULL.

"GOD KNOWS WHAT THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* WERE DOING.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

KKKRRRRIIIPP

HEY, KENNETH--

"SO, Y'KNOW--

--WHAT'S THE FREQUENCY?

"--I DID WHAT I COULD.

UGH!

"I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY, ***WE WON.*** BUT, THIS WHOLE DEAL, IT WAS KIND OF THE LAST STRAW. FOR ME.

OH, I GET IT. YOU ALL SAW WHAT KENNETH GOT--

--AND YOU WANT SOME TOO!

"LIKE, HOW MANY END-OF-THE-WORLD THINGS HAVE WE BEEN THROUGH?

"***GALACTUS.*** THOSE ***SKRULL*** THINGS. ***MUTANTS*** FIGHTING ***MUTANTS*** FIGHTING ***INHUMANS.***

"THE FREAKING ***MOLE MAN.***

WELL, COME ON THEN.

"THE HEROES FIGHT THE MONSTERS, RIGHT? THAT'S WHAT THEY DO-- WHAT *WE* DO.

I GOT ENOUGH FOR *EVERYBODY!*

"WHEN WE WIN, *DAMAGE CONTROL* OR SOMEBODY COMES IN TO CLEAN UP.

"THEY GRAB UP THE LEFTOVER ALIEN TECH OR FIX A SKYSCRAPER SOME KAIJU CHEWED HOLES IN.

"THEY CLEAN UP THE *STUFF*, RIGHT?

OH, *HELL* NO.

SKREEEEEEE!

SKREEEEEEE!

OH MY GOD. OH MY GOD. OH MY GOD.

"PROPERTY DAMAGE.

SLOW

"SO IT GOT ME THINKING.

THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

"WHAT ABOUT *THE PEOPLE?*"

NOW.

I DON'T NEED THE WINDUP, HOBIE. JUST GIVE ME THE PITCH.

I CAN HELP THEM, MINDY. MY COMPANY CAN. FAIRGRAY.

UM, BABY?

YOU KNOW FAIRGRAY'S A CROWDFUNDING PLATFORM, RIGHT? IT DOESN'T ACTUALLY HELP PEOPLE. NOT DIRECTLY.

NO, I KNOW. THIS WOULD BE AN EXPANSION--AN *EVOLUTION.*

OKAY... *HOW?* WHAT ARE YOU ACTUALLY TALKING ABOUT HERE?

I'M TALKING ABOUT *HER.*

YASMIN ADIR.

KLIK

JUST A NORMAL KID, LIVING A NORMAL LIFE. ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO, I THINK, THE AVENGERS WERE FIGHTING KANG. AGAIN.

OR, MAYBE IT WAS DR. STRANGE VERSUS SOME DEMON OR SOMETHING.

THESE GUYS COME OUT OF A RIFT, SHOOTING ZAP BEAMS EVERYWHERE.

THIS GIRL, YASMIN, GOT HIT.

SO, OKAY, YEAH, THE AVENGERS OR WHOEVER GOT RID OF THE BAD GUYS. THAT'S WHAT THEY DO.

BUT YASMIN? SHE'S SCREWED.

NOW HALF HER BODY'S SLOWLY TURNING INTO CRYSTAL.

NO CURE. NO TREATMENT. NO HELP. SHE LOSES MORE MOBILITY EVERY DAY.

FAIRGRAY

MY GOD.

SHE'S CROWDFUNDING 10K SO SHE CAN MAKE HER HOUSE MORE COMFORTABLE WHILE SHE WAITS TO DIE.

HOBIE, THAT'S... THAT'S AWFUL. BREAKS MY HEART, BUT WHAT CAN YOU ACTUALLY DO?

MY INVENTIONS.
MY FRIEND LIST.
DR. VOODOO.
SCOTT LANG.
TONY STARK.
HELL, EVEN PETER.
FAIRGRAY CAN HELP HER. I CAN.

FAIRGRAY'S GOT *HUNDREDS* OF PAGES LIKE THIS ONE. DESTROYED TOWNS. MUTATED PEOPLE AND ANIMALS. ALIEN ENERGY POISONING.
WE CAN FIND THEM. WE CAN *HELP* THEM.

I KNOW YOU NEVER LIKED ME BEING *THE PROWLER.* TOO DANGEROUS. IN AND OUT OF JAIL.
DEAD. HOSPITALIZED. IMPERSONATED. CLONED. DEAD AGAIN. YEAH. YOU AND THE PROWLER ARE NOT A GOOD MIX.

I FEEL LIKE ALL THAT WAS ME LOOKING FOR SOMETHING, Y'KNOW? LIKE TRYING TO FIND SOMETHING TO DO OR BE, I GUESS. SOMETHING THAT MATTERED.
NOT JUST TO ME. BUT, LIKE, TO *PEOPLE.*
I THINK THIS IS IT, MINDY. I THINK THIS IS THE THING I'VE BEEN LOOKING--

BREEEP
YOU HAVE A CALL FROM
J. CHORD@FAIRGRAY
?
YOU HAVE A CALL FROM J. CHORD @ FAIRGRAY.

HEY, JAY. WHAT'S UP?

YOU TELL ME, BOSS. WE WERE JUST HAVING OUR NORMAL DAY--WE'RE SWAPPING IN THE NEW COOLING SYSTEM FOR THE SERVER ROOM.

THEN THESE GOONS SHOW UP. THEY'VE GOT PERMITS AND AUTHORIZATIONS AND A FREAKING DEED.

THEY KICKED US ALL OUT. NOW THEY'RE TAKING ALL THE WORK STATIONS AND SERVERS.

THEY SAY THEY OWN THE PLACE. WE'RE ALL TERMINATED.

WAIT... WHAT?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, JANELLE? WHO'S THEY? THEY WHO?

THEM, BOSS. WHO DO YOU THINK?

DIVISION OF BEYOND CORPORATION
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

RODDY CONFIRMED THEIR PAPERWORK'S LEGIT.

DIVISION OF BEYOND CORPORATION

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

DID YOU REALLY SELL FAIRGRAY WITHOUT TELLING US, BOSS?

BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE REALLY #$%& UP.

THAT IS REALLY #$%& UP! I DID *NOT* SELL MY COMPANY!

IT'S NOT ACTUALLY *YOUR* COMPANY, HOBART. YOU ARE JUST THE PRESIDENT-- *WERE* THE PRESIDENT.

OFFICES OF GOODMAN, LIEBER & KURTZBERG.

20 Minutes Later.

FAIRGRAY WAS A SUBSIDIARY OF *STARK INTERNATIONAL* WHICH SOLD OFF SEVERAL MINOR HOLDINGS TO *RAND CORP.*

"MINOR"? AND SINCE WHEN?!

ERM...MONDAY MORNING.

WHAT THE WHAT?

RAND CORP.'S IMPORT-EXPORT. WHY DO THEY CARE ABOUT CROWD-FUNDING?

THEY DON'T. THEY OWNED FAIRGRAY FOR PRECISELY TEN HOURS BEFORE PASSING IT ON TO...KALIBANK LTD.

OH. OKAY. WELL, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF *THEM.*

KALIBANK IS A HOLDING COMPANY, MANAGING SEVERAL ACQUISITIONS FOR...

YEAH. GOT IT. THE *BEYOND* CORPORATION.

WHAT THE H, RODDY? YOU DON'T NOTIFY ME THIS WAS HAPPENING? YOU'RE MY FREAKING LAWYER.

COUPLE OF THINGS.

ONE. I *WOULD* HAVE NOTIFIED YOU BUT EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO FAST I HAD TO LET THE DUST SETTLE IN ORDER TO KNOW WHAT, *PRECISELY,* TO TELL YOU.

TWO. GOODMAN, LIEBER & KURTZBERG REPRESENTS *FAIRGRAY,* NOT YOU, PERSONALLY.

THE SENIOR PARTNERS HANDLED THESE DEALS. I'M REALLY JUST YOUR LIAISON.

THREE. I ONLY TOOK THIS MEETING AS A COURTESY. BECAUSE I LIKE YOU.

THIS DEAL IS DONE, HOBART. BEYOND *OWNS* FAIRGRAY. YOU AND YOUR EMPLOYEES ARE OUT.

I KNOW THIS IS A BLOW, BUT TAKE CONSOLATION IN THE FACT THAT YOUR EXIT PACKAGE IS...

FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS!

IT'S A LOT, YES, BUT...

IT'S ENOUGH TO RESTART *EVERYTHING.* THAT'S ENOUGH TO BUILD A DEDICATED APP!

WE CAN GET THE WHOLE CREW BACK! JANITORS! *EVERYBODY!*

IF ANY OF THEM WILL COME...

WE CAN LEASE CLOUDSPACE INSTEAD OF HAVING THE SERVERS ON-SITE. WE CAN--

WAIT, WHAT?

WHY WOULDN'T THEY COME BACK?

YOU GOT A GREAT PARACHUTE. SO DID THE ENTIRE STAFF.

EVERYBODY GOT AT LEAST A HUNDRED THOUSAND IN SEVERANCE WITH MEDICAL INSURANCE EXTENDED FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

WHAT?
THAT'S OVER 30 MILLION!
45 WITH YOUR PAYOUT. ADD THAT TO THE BUY PRICE FOR THE COMPANY. WE'RE TALKING OVER *200 MILLION.*
IT'S AN OVERPAY. I ASKED AROUND. FAIRGRAY'S WORTH MAYBE 70 MILLION, AT BEST. THIS IS--
200 MILLION DOLLARS?
HOBIE. BABY. CRAZYPANTS LOVE OF MY LIFE. *PLEASE*, FOR FIVE MINUTES, *FOCUS.*
I...AM FOCUSED.
WHAT AM I FOCUSED ON?
IT'S *TOO MUCH.*
BEYOND BOUGHT *FAIRGRAY* FOR ALMOST THREE TIMES ITS REAL VALUE. THEY RUSHED THE PAPERWORK AND SEIZED THE PHYSICAL ASSETS LIKE COPS DOING A DRUG RAID.
PAID OFF EVERY EMPLOYEE, *INCLUDING YOU*, ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM FAT AND HAPPY.
SO I'VE ONLY GOT ONE QUESTION.

"WHY?

"THIS IS A GIANT, HYPER-SUCCESSFUL CORPORATION. THEY HAVE A COMPANY FOR EVERYTHING. THEY HAVE FINGERS IN EVERYTHING.

"WHY DO THEY EVEN WANT FAIRGRAY?

"WHY NOT JUST BUILD THEIR OWN CROWDFUNDER?

"WHY DO THEY WANT *YOUR* SERVERS?

"IF THIS WAS PART OF A LAWSUIT, I'D BE SUBPOENAING THEIR RELATED FILES AS PART OF DISCOVERY.

"NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE THINK, CORPORATIONS WRITE DOWN ***EVERYTHING.***

"EVERYTHING YOU WANT, EVERY BIT OF INFO ABOUT ANY SCHEME, IT'S IN SOMEBODY'S FILE, IN SOMEBODY'S ARCHIVE.

"YOU JUST NEED ACCESS.

"THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO GET THAT. OBVIOUSLY, ***LEGAL*** IS MY THING. I'M SURE I COULD GET WHAT I WANT. EVENTUALLY.

"THIS SMELLS LIKE A HOSTILE TAKEOVER, EVEN WITH THE MASSIVE EMPLOYEE PAYOUTS.

"NO COMPANY THIS BIG AND RICH SPENDS THAT MUCH MONEY TO BUY SOMETHING THEY COULD BUILD THEMSELVES FOR LESS.

"SO ***WHY?***

"WHATEVER THE ANSWER IS, THEY WROTE IT DOWN. FOR SURE.

"THERE'S GOING TO BE PROJECT ANALYSES, REPORTS ON REPORTS. ***BUCKETS*** OF DATA.

"IT'D BE GREAT IF I COULD GET A PEEK."

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT.

WHAT? YOU *ASKED ME* TO--

I DID NOT. I SAID IT WOULD BE *NICE* TO SEE THE RECORDS.

AT NO TIME DID I REQUEST, DIRECT, OR IMPLY THAT YOU SHOULD ILLEGALLY OBTAIN THOSE RECORDS FOR ME.

OKAY, COUNSELOR. MY BAD. I JUMPED THE GUN.

HUGE SHOCK THERE.

BUT, OKAY, SO, YOU'VE GOT THEM NOW. ANYTHING GOOD IN THERE?

I MEAN... EVERYTHING? YOU GOT *EVERYTHING*, HOBIE.

ACQUISITIONS. TIMETABLES. REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS. FLOWCHARTS. STOCK PROJECTIONS. R&D UPDATES.

IT'S A LOT, BABY. A *LOT*, A LOT.

TEK

WELL, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET THE WHOLE PICTURE.

WOW. YOU WEREN'T KIDDING. THAT IS--

--A LOT. I'M GONNA NEED SOME TIME TO REALLY--

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

PERIMETER BREACH. LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT--

"--AN INTRUDER ON THE ROOF."

LET GO! GET ME *OUT OF* THIS! *STOP* IT!

LET ME *GO!* WHAT EVEN *IS* IT? IT STINGS LIKE NEEDLES!

IT'S A TELEPORT BLOCKER, MISS ST. COMMONS.

IT'S PROBABLY IRONIC BUT I'M NOT A BIG FAN OF *PROWLERS.*

YOU'RE THE *THIEF!* I SAW YOU AT *BEYOND!* YOU'RE EVEN WEARING *MY BEST FRIEND'S* COSTUME!*

*THE ORIGINAL HORNET WAS KILLED BY WOLVERINE BACK IN **WOLVERINE: ENEMY OF THE STATE!** --DK

...WAIT...

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

FIRST, THE COSTUME'S MINE. I DESIGNED IT.

AS FOR YOUR NAME, I'VE BEEN LOOKING INTO YOU AND YOUR CREW.

SO. WANNA TELL ME WHY YOU'RE TRYING TO 'PORT INTO MY PLACE...

...OR AM I CALLING THE COPS?

...

I PREFER NO COPS, PLEASE.

WHOA!

TEK

YEAH, SO, YOU WERE AT *BEYOND* AND YOU FOLLOWED ME. WHY?

TEK

I DUNNO. I GET... FLASHES. I'M, LIKE, CONNECTED TO SOME PEOPLE AND I GET PREMONITIONS.

SOMETIMES LITTLE ONES.

PRECOG. OKAY. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "CONNECTED"?

I USED TO RUN WITH THESE GUYS... RICH. ED. JOHNNY. WE GOT INTO SOME STUFF. IT WAS KIND OF A MESS.

WE STOPPED HANGING OUT. I--I'VE GOT THESE POWERS. I GOT... *TANGLED*...IN THEIR HEADS. NOT FUN, Y'KNOW?

YOU'RE TAKING INHIBITREX FOR THE PSI STUFF? HOW'S IT WORKING?

OKAY, I GUESS. NOT GREAT. I STILL GET FLASHES. NOT SO MANY ANYMORE, BUT STILL.

I GOT ONE FROM JOHNNY. SOME GUYS GRABBING HIM. THE BEYOND BUILDING. THEIR LOGO.

HE'S IN *TROUBLE*. HE NEEDS *HELP*.

YOU DIDN'T CONTACT HIS FAMILY? WHAT ABOUT THE POLICE?

I DON'T KNOW HIS PEOPLE. ME AND COPS DON'T MIX SO WELL.

SO YOU WENT AT IT SOLO?

I *WOULD* HAVE. I *WANTED* TO. BUT, BEYOND, IT'S SHIELDED. EVEN BETTER THAN YOUR PLACE. I COULDN'T GET IN.

THEN I SAW YOU DO IT. IN AND OUT--EASY. FIGURED MAYBE YOU COULD HELP ME.

HELP YOU *WHAT?*

BEYOND'S GOT HIM. I *KNOW* IT. I CAN *FEEL IT.* IF YOU CAN GET ME IN THERE, I CAN--

WHOA... HEY. WE THINK THIS COMPANY'S SHADY TOO, BUT *KIDNAPPING?*

IF YOU REALLY THINK THAT, YOU NEED TO GO TO SOMEONE FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. OR THE FBI.

THEY'VE *GOT* HIM. THEY'RE HURTING HIM. I TOLD YOU. I KNOW IT-- I CAN FEEL IT.

THAT'S NOT EVIDENCE, CASSIE. NO D.A. IS GOING TO--

DID YOU NOT *HEAR ME?* I *KNOW* I'VE GOT NO EVIDENCE. MY POWERS ARE... NO WAY THEY LISTEN TO ME.

ALL I'VE GOT IS MY FLASHES AND TWO WORDS.

"KROATAN FARM."

WHAT?

JUST A SECOND...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

JUST A SECOND, I SAID.

I THINK YOU NEED TO STEP BACK FROM THIS, CASSIE. BEYOND IS NOTHING TO FOOL WITH.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HELP ME. BUT I'M GOING TO FIND JOHNNY. I'M ALL HE'S--

YO! YOU TWO, GET DOWN HERE!

WHAT, HOBIE? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

JUST GET IN HERE. I THINK I FOUND SOMETHING.

WHAT THE HELL?

HE'S SHOWING OFF. DON'T FALL FOR IT.

HOBIE, *WHAT?*

GOT A GLANCE AT THE DOCS BEFORE THE ALARM WENT OFF.

IT'S IN THE SPECIAL PROJECTS FILE. *KROATAN FARM.*

THE ADDRESS IS NEAR KING'S CROSSING, NEW YORK.

AND YOU GOT THIS JUST OFF A GLANCE?

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY, BABY. HELPS WITH THE INVENTING.

YOU DO NOT HAVE A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY.

DAIRY FARM. BEEN DEFUNCT SINCE SOME INCIDENT WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR. BEYOND PICKED IT UP CHEAP SIX MONTHS AGO.

OKAY. SO?

SO YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA NEED SOME TIME TO GET THROUGH ALL THIS.

SO ALL THREE OF US THINK THERE'S SOMETHING SHADY GOING ON WITH BEYOND.

SO WHY DON'T YOU GET TO WORK ON THESE DOCS WHILE ME AND CASSIE, Y'KNOW...

"...GO TAKE A PEEK?"

TWENTY-FIVE MILES NORTH WEST OF YOU, CASSIE. YOU NEED THE GEOTAG?

NOPE. I'M GOOD.

HERKIMER COUNTY, NEW YORK. Two Hours Later.

YOU GET A LOOK AT KING'S CROSSING?

EMPTY. THERE'S A COUPLE OF LIGHTS ON BUT, YEAH, IT'S YOUR BASIC GHOST TOWN.

SAME HERE. NOTHING STIRRING. NOBODY'S BEEN HERE FOR MONTHS, AT LEAST.

I *KNOW* JOHNNY'S HERE. I CAN FEEL IT. IT'S JUST--

SOMETHING'S BLOCKING YOU, RIGHT?

...YEAH... SOMETHING...

YEAH. THIS IS SOME BULL#$%&.

THIS FARM'S JUST AN EMPTY HUSK. BUT THERE'S A CLASS FOUR FORCE-FIELD AROUND IT?

PLUS, THE TP BLOCK AND YOUR PSI CONNECTION'S SCRAMBLED.

"MOVE ALONG, FOLKS. NOTHING TO SEE HERE." SEE WHAT I MEAN?

BEYOND PUT IN A LOT OF WORK TO MAKE THIS PLACE LOOK LIKE NOTHING.

JOHNNY'S *HERE*, HOBIE. SOMEWHERE. I CAN FEEL HIM.

WE'RE GOING IN. PULL UP YOUR MASK.

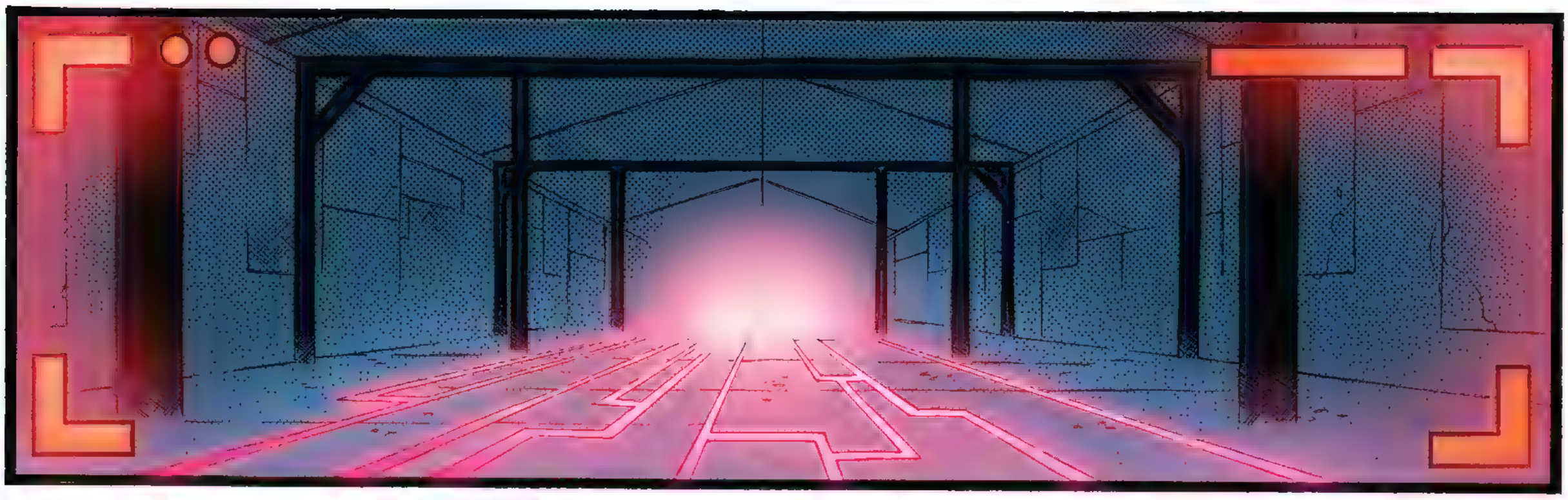
WHATEVER HAPPENS IN THERE, I DON'T WANT ANYBODY LOOKING AT YOU.

I WANT THEM LOOKING AT *ME.*

TEK

OKAY. LET'S DO THIS.

ANY CLUE WHERE WE'RE GOING?



MY PULSE MAP SHOWS AN OPEN SPACE ABOUT TWO HUNDRED YARDS DOWN. *BIG* ENERGY SOURCE TOO. BET THAT'S THE POWER CENTER.

JOHNNY'S DEFINITELY DOWN THERE.

SO... HOW'S THAT TP BLOCK FEELING?

NOT SO STRONG NOW THAT WE'RE INSIDE THE FENCE. I CAN MOVE BOTH OF US BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE, SOME KIND OF... DISTORTION?

IS THAT A DEAL BREAKER? YOU'RE THE WHOLE GETAWAY IF THINGS GO LEFT.

HEY, WE GOT THIS FAR, RIGHT? WHAT'S--

--THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?

ROAR

HOLY #$%&!

OPERATOR FOUR! GET DOWN!

ROARR

OPERATOR SIX! TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD!

NO PROGRESS!

THE EFFECT IS STILL EXPANDING! WE HAVE TO SHUT THE ANCHOR DOWN!

YEAH, I *KNOW* THAT! *HOW* ARE YOU PLANNING TO--?

JOHNNY? IS THAT *REALLY* YOU?

WHAT? CASS-- *DUSK?!* WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

SOMEBODY THOUGHT YOU NEEDED A RESCUE, RICOCHET.

HORNET?! WHAT THE HELL? RESCUE ME? FROM WHAT?

DUDE, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!

JOHNNY, YOU DISAPPEARED. WEEKS AGO. I'VE BEEN TOTALLY FREAKING OUT TRYING TO FIND YOU.

WHAT? NO. I JUST TOOK THIS GIG YESTERDAY.

TEMPORAL DILATION. OF COURSE.

WE KNEW ACTIVATING THE QUANTUM ANCHOR MIGHT CREATE SPATIAL DISTORTIONS... IT STANDS TO REASON THERE WOULD BE SOME TIME DILATIONS AS WELL.

QUANTUM ANCHOR? WHAT, LIKE A NEGATIVE ZONE GATE?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

YOU USE THE RICHARDS CONFIGURATION MATRIX OR THE PYM-FOSTER?

PYM-FOSTER WITH THE KRAGOFF-SANTINI STRUCTURE.

NICE. SOMETHING SCRAMBLED YOUR AUTO-SHUTDOWN, RIGHT?

DUSK... WHO IS THIS GUY?

YOU DON'T LISTEN. I'M THE RESCUE. DUSK SAID YOU'RE A MUTANT, RIGHT? KINETIC TRANSITION POWERSET?

IF THAT MEANS I BOUNCE AROUND REALLY FAST, YEAH. BEEN SAVING FOLKS SINCE ALL THIS CRAZINESS POPPED OFF.

BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE THE ANGLES WORK TO GET TO THE ANCHOR, RIGHT? BALLISTIC TRAJECTORIES WON'T GET YOU THROUGH THE SPACE FOLDS.

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MAN?

HITTING THE OFF SWITCH.

DUSK. I'M GOING TO STABILIZE A PATH THROUGH THE FOLDS. I NEED YOU TO OPEN A TP GATE TO THAT THING OVER THERE. JUST A LITTLE ONE.

TEK TEP TOK TOK

HUMMMMMMMMMMM

I CAN DO THAT.

OKAY, THEN. GO!

JOHNNY! I NEED YOU TO REACH THROUGH AND HIT THE SHUTDOWN SWITCH! HURRY! WE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP THIS UP!

HUMMMMMMM

WHO *ARE* YOU, MAN? SERIOUSLY!

JUST DO IT, JOHNNY! I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

...

FINE.

BUT ME AND NEW GUY ARE GONNA HAVE A TALK ABOUT HIM WEARING EDDIE'S SUIT.

THIS BETTER WORK, MAN.

SMAK!

THEY'RE GONE.

LOOKS LIKE A WIN TO ME.

WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED.

WE DID IT! OMIGOD! WE DID IT! WE SAVED YOU!

I TOLD YOU, I JUST GOT A JOB. I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR BEYOND IN THEIR HERO DIVISION.

GLAD TO SEE YOU THOUGH.

EXCELLENT WORK MR.....*HORNET*, WAS IT?

YEAH. THAT'S ME.

WELL, YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVE THE BRAINS AND THE--*AH*--PHYSICALITY TO BE A TOP-SHELF MEMBER OF MY TEAM.

MR. HORNET, I AM OFFICIALLY OFFERING YOU A JOB.

CALL ME IN THE MORNING. WE NEED TO TALK.

tel: 555-1990

BEYOND

Operator 6

Dr. Eliot Swensen

THE END?

#89 VARIANT BY
PATRICK GLEASON & MARTE GRACIA

BEYOND CORPORATION

BEYOND CORPORATION #89

FSH

RRRGH!

BEYOND. MANHATTAN FACILITY.

A THERAPIST'S JOB IS TO GUIDE OUR PATIENTS.

GREEN GOBLIN ASSETS SYNCHRONIZING WITH BEYOND DATABASE.

AAAAARH!

YEAH, PAIN HURTS.

NOW I KNOW... WHAT THEY KNOW.

I SEE MY HIGHER CALLING.

LOWER GLIDER.

I HEAR THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

MY STRENGTH WILL RULE IN PLACE OF THEIR WEAKNESS.

SHRAKK

NO! YOU CAN'T--

I CAN.

SPLUTCH

WAIT-- HOW'D SHE GET HER MACE?!

SCEPTER.

GURRRGLE

YES. CHANGE CAN BE PAINFUL...

MY QUEEN.

...BUT THIS IS WHERE THE *HEALING* BEGINS.

MADNESS IS CLARITY.

HA HA HA HA HA HA!

McCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER.

GREAT P.T. WORKOUT TONIGHT, PETER.

JUST DOING THE WORK, NURSE LOIS.

DON'T THINK I HAVEN'T NOTICED YOUR PROGRESS-- OR THOSE EXTRA BAND-AIDS.

YOU GOT A SIDE-NURSE GIVING YOU AFTER-HOURS P.T.?

I ONLY MAKE TIME FOR YOU.

AND DOCTORS AMERICA AND BLACK CAT FROM TEN TO ONE A.M., MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, AND FRIDAYS.

WELL, WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, KEEP IT UP. ***HARD WORK*** LOOKS GOOD ON YOU, PETER BENJAMIN PARKER.

WAIT, ARE YOU ACTUALLY... ***PROUD*** OF ME?

DON'T PUSH IT. REST UP, AND I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW AFTER BREAKFAST. GOOD NIGHT.

DON'T PUSH IT, SHE SAYS.

THAT'S ALL I ***DO*** THESE DAYS.

I COULD USE THE SHUT-EYE, BUT PULLING DOUBLE P.T. ISN'T ABOUT TAKING IT EASY--IT'S ABOUT BEING ***READY.***

FAWUMP

OW!

THERE'S MY CUE.

THE MIND IS STRONG, BUT THE BODY IS WEAK, *SPIDER-HOPPER.*

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING TO USE THAT LINE?

WHAT? NOT QUIPPY ENOUGH?

YOU'RE EARLY.

BROUGHT YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY JUNK TO DOCUMENT TRAINING. CAP THOUGHT IT COULD STAND IN FOR HIM.

HE'S NOT COMING?

AVENGING SOMETHING OFF-WORLD. I CAN QUIP IN SUPER-SOLDIER IF IT HELPS.

THAT WOULD BE WORTH DOCUMENTING.

BREAKING NEWS TONIGHT...

...A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS HAVE ROCKED THE UPPER FLOORS OF THE DAILY BUGLE.

REPORTS OF A GOBLIN ON A GLIDER BEING RESPONSIBLE HAVE COME IN. RESCUE CREWS ARE--

A GOBLIN?!

TRAINING JUST GOT UPGRADED TO REAL-WORLD DRILLS.

THAT'S SPIDEY-HUMOR, RIGHT?

I'M READY. LET'S GO.

PETER, STOP. LET *SOMEONE ELSE* HANDLE THIS ONE.

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY MY *STYLE,* CAT.

THIS ISN'T STYLE-- IT'S HALF-COCKED.

REMEMBER HOW FAR OUR LITTLE PARKING GARAGE PLAYDATE* SET BACK YOUR RECOVERY?

I'M TIRED OF LYING AROUND HERE LETTING YOU, BEN, AND EVERYONE ELSE DO MY JOB.

YOUR JOB? DON'T BE STUPID. WHAT ABOUT OURS?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

*IN ASM #83. —NL

LOOK, I'LL TELL YOU LIKE I TOLD MJ--YOU'LL JUST SLOW ME DOWN.*

YEAH? HOW DID *THAT* WORK OUT?

*IN MJBC: BEYOND #1. —NL

FINE, SMART GUY. YOU THINK YOU'RE READY FOR THIS?

MY WEB-SHOOTER?

THUNK

YOU WANT IT?

COME AND GET IT!

THWIP

ARE YOU *SERIOUS* RIGHT NOW?! THE NURSES WILL--

WITH ANY LUCK, THEY'LL DISSOLVE BEFORE THE MORNING NURSE CHECKS ON YOU.

BUT IF YOU ARE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT IT, YOUR WEB-SHOOTERS ARE WAITING HERE ON THE NIGHTSTAND.

ENJOY THE SHOW ON THE NEWS OR MEET ME AT THE *BUGLE*...

...IF YOU CAN!

HA HA HA HA!

THE DAILY BUGLE.

LOOK OUT! SHE'S COMING AROUND AGAIN!

GET US CLEAR!

SOMEBODY! HELP!

ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE!

AH, THE NOT-SO-FAMOUS *MARY JANE WATSON.*

I WAS WRAPPING UP HERE, BUT I CAN *ALWAYS* MAKE TIME FOR A LITTLE CELEBRITY FREELANCING!

HOW COULD I NOT BE INTRIGUED BY THE MIND OF A FAILED ACTOR, NIGHTCLUB PROPRIETOR, AND STARK EMPLOYEE? WE HAVE A *LOT* TO WORK THROUGH.

I HAVE NEW AND IMPROVED THERAPEUTIC OPTIONS AS WELL.

WOULD YOU CARE TO SEE MY *GOBLIN GAZE?*

I SHOULD WARN YOU-- IT CAN BE...

...INTENSE.

I--I DON'T--

HELP!

GIVING UP SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS? HOW *GRACIOUS* OF YOU!

WAIT!

PLEASE.. I'M SLIPPING!

C-CAN'T HOLD ON!

PLEASE, I--I DON'T WANT TO FALL!

WE WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN, WALTER JAMES WILCOX. ADMITTING YOU HAVE A *PROBLEM* TRULY IS THE FIRST STEP...

AAAAGHH!

...TO *FREEDOM!*

WHO'S NEXT?

JUST STOP IT!

FWAK

FEH!

YOU DARE RAISE A HAND...

...AGAINST YOUR QUEEN?!

RAISE A HAND?

HOW ABOUT I DROP A *FOOT* RIGHT IN YOUR FANGS, PRINCESS?

SWAK

GURRRK!

BLACK CAT!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, RED?

I WAS HELPING BEN'S GIRLFRIEND BLOW THE WHISTLE ON BEYOND. THEN THAT *GOBLIN* SHOWED UP AND DESTROYED THE EVIDENCE ALONG WITH HALF THE BUILDING!

WHERE IS THIS WHISTLEBLOWER NOW?

BEN SHOWED UP AND RESCUED JANINE, BUT THEN HE... JUST LEFT US.

DON'T WORRY, BEN'S COMING BACK. I'M SURE OF IT, ALL RIGHT?

I DON'T--

OF COURSE HE IS. HE'S *SPIDER-MAN!*

GET THOSE PEOPLE DOWN THE STAIRS, I'LL DEAL WITH OUR ROYAL PAIN.

OKAY, BE CAREFUL.

WHERE DID THAT *WITCH--?*

INTERESTING MONIKER.

DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ONCE BELIEVED THAT WITCHES KEPT SHAPE-SHIFTING ***BLACK CATS*** AS SPIES?

PEOPLE COULD NOT SEE THE CREATURE FOR WHAT IT ***TRULY*** WAS SO LONG AS IT WAS DISGUISED AS SUCH.

FUUU

UTT--

YOU NO LONGER NEED TO HIDE WHAT YOU ***TRULY*** ARE...

...DAMAGED GOODS.

NOW LET GOBLINS GAZE.

FWASH

YOU TRIED SO HARD TO COVER IT ALL, BUT THINGS NEVER REALLY WORKED OUT IN YOUR LIFE, DID THEY?

F-FAILURE.

AS A FRIEND?

AWFUL.

AS A LOVER?

NO ONE... CARES.

YOUR POOR FATHER. WHAT HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT OF HIS DAUGHTER.

I AM A D-DISAPPOINTMENT.

BREAKTHROUGHS LIKE THIS CAN BE...DIFFICULT BUT ARE NECESSARY TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF FAILURE.

YOU CAN SEE THERE IS ONLY ONE OPTION LEFT, YES?

Y-YES.

NO! WHAT IS SHE ***DOING*** UP THERE?

THE WORLD WILL BE BETTER OFF ***WITHOUT*** YOU.

JUST ONE SMALL STEP AND IT WILL ALL BE OVER.

KA-CHAK

IT WILL ONLY HURT FOR A MOMENT...

...THEN THERE WILL BE NO MORE PAIN.

YOU ARE SO BRAVE.

NO!

GET BACK INSIDE, LADY! SHE *JUMPED!*

GET OUT OF THE WAY!

?

HUH? SP-SPIDER-MAN?

YOU OKAY?

MJ WAS WORRIED YOU WEREN'T--

THAT'S NOT BEN. THAT'S--

"...PETER!"

NICE AND EASY-- JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS.

DO *NOT* FOCUS ON THE KNUCKLE-WHITENING, BODY-SHAKING, FACE-MELTING, SEARING-HOT PAIN, LIKE P.T. TAUGHT YOU.

YOU MAKE THIS LOOK EASY. YOU TOTALLY GOT THIS.

T-T-TOTALLY G-GOT THIS.

FELICIA! WHAT *WAS* THAT?

GOBLIN CHICK RUNG MY BELL THEN GOT IN MY *HEAD*. TWISTED EVERY NEGATIVE THOUGHT I EVER HAD AND CHOKED OUT MY FREE WILL.

IT WAS AWFUL. STILL SEEING DOUBLE.

BEN WAS HERE, BUT THEN HE BAILED ON EVERYONE!

THAT DOES *NOT* SOUND LIKE YOU SPIDER-GUYS AT ALL.

I *NEED* TO FIND HIM.

HALF-EMPTY WEB CARTRIDGES, SPIDER-SUIT...

WOULD IT KILL YOU GUYS TO CARRY A FIRST AID KIT?

SORRY I SECOND-GUESSED YOUR RESOLVE BACK AT THE HOSPITAL, PETER. THIS BAD FRIEND OWES YOU SO MUCH MORE THAN THOSE WEB-SHOOTERS.

YOU DON'T OWE ME A THING, FELICIA.

WELL, AFTER HOW HARD YOU'VE WORKED AND HOW FAR YOU'VE COME, YOU'VE CERTAINLY *EARNED* MORE.

PERHAPS WE HAVE AN ENSEMBLE AVAILABLE THAT WILL GO FABULOUSLY WITH THOSE WEB-SHOOTERS, MJ?

OH, ABSOLUTELY.

FACE IT, TIGER...

...YOU HIT THE JACKPOT *AGAIN.*

SKOOM

AND WE ARE ABOUT TO GO *BUST* AGAIN! SHE'S STILL UP THERE!

GET FELICIA SOMEWHERE SAFE, MJ. I'LL PUT AN END TO THIS, THEN I'LL FIND BEN.

SHE IS *NOT* LIKE ANY OTHER GOBLIN YOU HAVE FACED BEFORE.

SAVING ME IS ONE THING, BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE *READY* FOR HER?

THAT'S MY SECRET, CAT...

...I'M NEVER READY.

HE STILL LOOKS... *UNSTEADY.* ARE YOU SURE HE'S UP FOR THIS?

THE MIND AND BODY ARE *BOTH* STRONG, RIGHT, SPIDER-HOPPER?

DON'T WORRY, CAT! REMEMBER...

"...I BROKE OUT OF YOUR WEBS, DIDN'T I?"

FIVE MINUTES AGO.

HRRRK.

...HAS IDENTIFIED HERSELF AS THE QUEEN GOBLIN. OTHER REPORTS OF A SECOND MASKED FEMALE VIGILANTE ON THE SCENE...

C'MON!

YOU WANT TO HELP THEM? GOOD.

WHO--?

BEN SHOWED ME WHERE TO FIND YOU.

MY NAME IS JANINE.

AND WE NEED YOUR HELP TOO...

SHRRRK

...WHETHER YOU ARE READY OR NOT.

*90 VARIANT BY
PATRICK GLEASON & MARTE GRACIA

BEYOND

BEYOND CORPORATION #90

THEN.

BEN? DO YOU COPY?

SUIT TRANSPONDER ACTIVE. SPIDER-MAN IS ON THE MOVE, A.G.L.

EXPEDITE AND PROCEED *DIRECTLY.*

ANSWER ME. *NOW.*

GPS HEADING OH-THREE-SEVEN. SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST.

SUIT LOAD FACTOR READING 183%.

HE'S GOT HER *ONBOARD.*

I KNOW YOU HEAR ME, BEN.

I NEED YOU AND JANINE TO R.T.B. RIGHT NOW...

...YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO MAKE JANINE A FUGITIVE ALL OVER AGAIN.

BEN--?

AIRPLANE MODE.

TEN

THEY'LL LOCK ME UP?

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.

BUT THOSE PEOPLE BACK AT THE *BUGLE*...THEY NEEDED YOUR HELP TOO.

NOT MY PROBLEM RIGHT NOW.

NOT YOUR--?

OUR *ONLY* PROBLEM IS BEYOND.

BEN, THIS ISN'T... *YOU.*

YOU HEARD MAXINE. THEY'LL SPIN IT--MAKE YOU AND ME THE BAD GUYS.

THEY ALREADY *HAVE.*

BURNING THEM DOWN IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN CLEAR YOUR NAME.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE'LL BE *FREE.*

DAILY BUGLE

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU. IT'S LIKE...SOMETHING'S *MISSING.*

I'M FINE.

JANINE, LOOK. THEY TOOK...THINGS. *MEMORIES.* IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.

THERE ARE LITTLE GAPS, HOLES FOR THEM TO FILL IN LATER, I GUESS, BUT I'M *OKAY.* I CAN WORK AROUND THEM.

I JUST NEED TO FOCUS.

NOT GOOD ENOUGH. THEY'VE TAKEN TOO MUCH ALREADY. WE'RE GETTING THEM BACK. TOGETHER.

THEY HAVE TO MAKE YOU *WHOLE.*

I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THEM BEFORE THEY CAN MAKE EVERYTHING ELSE DISAPPEAR TOO. DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

I...

STATEN ISLAND.

WHAT ABOUT IT?

"IT'S ALL BEEN A DOUBLE CROSS. BEYOND ARE THE ONES ORCHESTRATING THE SUPER VILLAIN PROGRAM ALL THESE MONTHS TO THEIR OWN ENDS.

"THAT'S WHERE THE FACILITY FOR THEIR SUPER VILLAIN PROGRAM IS. IT'S WHY QUEEN GOBLIN WAS AFTER THE DRIVE I TOOK.

"BUT SHE DESTROYED IT BEFORE I COULD BLOW THE WHISTLE."

THEN THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING *AFTER* I FIND YOU SOMEPLACE SAFE.

THWIP

MCCARTHY MEDICAL CENTER. THERE'S STUFF THERE I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF TOO.

NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND.

IF YOU CAN'T RELY ON YOUR MIND, THEN PLEASE...

...TRUST *MINE.*

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE I EVER COULD TRUST, JANINE.

ALL RIGHT.

RIDE OR DIE?

RIDE OR DIE.

I KNOW WHO CAN HELP.

NOW.

HELP.

HELP. HELP. HELP.

HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT THE GOBLIN THING HAS BEEN DONE TO *DEATH.*

SO MANY GOBLINS IN YOUR LIFE. IT MUST FRIGHTEN YOU *DEEPLY.*

PRETTY SURE THE X-MEN HAVE A *WAY* SCARIER GOBLIN QUEEN.

QUEEN GOBLIN!

OH. RHYMES WITH *GREEN GOBLIN?* I'LL TRY TO REMEMBER THAT.

SLIPPERY. SHE'S BEEN ANTICIPATING ATTACKS AND KEEPING ME AT ARM'S LENGTH FOR THE BETTER PART OF AN HOUR.

I KNOW I'M SLOWER THESE DAYS, BUT AM I TELEGRAPHING *THAT* MUCH?

BEYOND HAS TERABYTES OF SPIDER-MAN DATA. I SEE EVERYTHING, AND FRANKLY, WAITING FOR YOU TO *DO* WHAT I ALREADY *KNOW* YOU'LL DO IS BECOMING *DULL.*

I'M AFRAID OUR TIME TOGETHER IS *UP.*

THVISSH

SHOOTERS ARE ON FUMES.

C'MON, RIGHTY! ONE LAST SHOT!

THWP

SPLITCH

YES!

NOW...NO MATTER HOW HARD SHE TRIES TO SHAKE YOU, PARKER...

SPLOOSH

DON'T...

ENOUGH!

...LET...

HANGING ON TO THE PAST?!

...GO!

WE HAVE A *BETTER* SPIDER-MAN!

THE SOONER YOU ACCEPT THAT, THE SOONER WE CAN *ALL* MOVE ON!

OUCH! RIGHT IN MY *IMPOSTOR SYNDROME!*

YIKES!

SPIDER-SENSE IS *SCREAMING* AT ME TO LET GO.

EVERY WALL I SLAM THROUGH *PUNISHES* ME FOR NOT LISTENING.

SKRAKOOM

SHEESH, LADY, WHO'D YOU GET YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE FROM? MATT MURDOCK?

FEH!

BARELY HOLDING ON. THE ADHESIVE OF THE WEB IS ABOUT THE ONLY THING KEEPING MY ALREADY SHAKY GRIP FROM SLIPPING.

FWAM

SHE'S BEEN TAKING THE LEAD THIS WHOLE TIME.

THE LONGER I TRY TO KEEP UP, THE MORE GROUND I LOSE.

BABBLING DOESN'T MASK YOUR FEAR FROM ME, SPIDER-FRAUD!

OR YOUR *PAIN!*

KRAKOOM

MILK DEE

GET THE NEXT ONE, PAL!

OUT OF THE WAY!

THIS SHRINK IS *RUINING* MY STYLE.

HA HA HA HA!

KRRRRM

THOOM

THE QUEENSBORO BRIDGE? NOW YOU'RE *BEGGING* FOR A HILARIOUS QUEEN IN QUEENS QUIP!

THAT SENTENCE WAS WAY OVER ITS LIMIT OF Q's.

ENOUGH PROPERTY DAMAGE. TIME TO STOP LETTING HER STEER AND DO A LITTLE BACKSEAT DRIVING OF MY OWN.

FISHING BOATS

RRRGH!

WUOOOSH

ARRGH!

QUEENS BLVD

KATHOOOM

CAN'T BELIEVE THAT *WORKED!* WE'RE HEADING OUT OVER OPEN WATER.

LET'S HOPE MY SHOULDER STAYS IN ITS SOCKET LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO WHIP THAT GLIDER INTO THE EAST RIVER!

THOOM

WHOOOOSH

NOW! WHILE SHE'S BUSY FIGHTING SOME SERIOUS G'S...

...I'VE GOT HER--

RIGHT WHERE I WANTED YOU!

WAIT-- ME?

LET GOBLINS GAZE!

FWASH

GAAAHHH!

DON'T YOU TIRE OF ASKING YOURSELF *HOW* TERRIBLE THINGS KEEP HAPPENING TO YOU OVER AND OVER?

Y-YES.

YES.

PERHAPS THE PROBLEM ISN'T OUT THERE, PERHAPS *YOU* ARE THE REASON YOU HAVE LOST SO MUCH.

SPLOOSH

DEEPER AND DEEPER.

THE GOBLINS WHISPER YOUR *SHAMEFUL* SECRETS TO ME.

THEY HAVE TAKEN SO MUCH, HAVEN'T THEY?

HARRY.

FLASH.

GWEN.

THE GOBLIN SEES WHAT YOU HAVE, WHO YOU ARE, AND IT WANTS TO MAKE YOU *SUFFER* BEFORE IT TAKES THE REST FROM YOU.

BUT FIRST, I WILL HELP YOU FIND THE *TRUTH* YOU COULD NEVER FIND YOURSELF.

CHERISH YOUR LAST BREATH AS IT TURNS TOXIC--IT WILL ALL BE OVER SOON.

I LEAVE YOU TO FACE THE QUESTION YOU FEAR THE MOST.

YOU DON'T REALLY *DESERVE* TO BE SPIDER-MAN, *DO YOU?*

NO. HE DOESN'T.

NOT MAN ENOUGH.

IRRESPONSIBLE.

I WISH YOU'D DIED INSTEAD OF BEN.

AH. THERE IT IS.

ROCK BOTTOM.

DOESN'T SHE REALIZE SELF-DOUBT IS KIND OF OUR *THING?*

B-BEN?

REMEMBER THE HOSPITAL? YOU WERE WILLING TO SHARE *EVERYTHING* EVEN IF IT MEANT LETTING ME BE THE BETTER SPIDER-MAN.

I DON'T EXPECT PEOPLE TO HELP ME. SO I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ASK.

THAT'S WHAT MY *THERAPIST* SAYS, AT LEAST.

ANYWAY... THIS IS ME ASKING.

YOU D-DESERVE TO B-BE SPIDER-MAN.

L-LAST THING, B-BEN...

YEAH?

B-BE... *AMAZING.*

THAT'S JUST IT... WE *BOTH* ARE.

AND IF I DESERVE TO BE SPIDER-MAN, THEN *SO DO* YOU.

NEVER GIVE UP.

NO!
IT CAN'T
BE--

SKOOM

SPLASH

OVER THERE!

GUAHHHH!

PROTECT THE QUEEN!

I--I THINK THAT'S WHAT THERAPISTS CALL...

...A BREAKTHROUGH.

BEYOND CORP.

DISPLAYS SHOW GLIDER EXITING OUR COVERAGE AREA. NO RADIO RESPONSE.

WHAT ABOUT OUR OTHER *ASSET?*

HIS AIRPLANE MODE IS STILL ACTIVE. WE'RE WORKING ON TRIANGULATIONS.

"TRIANGULATIONS"? WE HAVE *PROTOCOLS--*

THERE!

GAMMA LOCK IS SCATTERED BUT PATTERNS SEEM TO BE CONVERGING ON...

...THAT CAN'T BE.

HE'S ON STATEN ISLAND.

ALL COMMS.

"NOW!"

THANKS FOR THE LIFT, GUYS.

SINCE WHEN DOES THE COAST GUARD MOONLIGHT AS UBER?

US COAST GU

HAD TO PROMISE TO GET THE "REAL" SPIDER-MAN TO GIVE THEM A RECRUITMENT SHOUT-OUT ON TWITTER.

THANKS FOR THE FRESH WEBS.

HER CROWN?

YEAH, IT--

SHH! LISTEN!

XXX XXXXXX XXX

THIS IS MAXINE DANGER. SPIDER-MAN IS NO LONGER VIABLE. INITIATE **BACKDRAFT** PROTOCOL FOR STATEN ISLAND FACILITY.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

FROM WHAT YOU TOLD ME ABOUT BEYOND, NOTHING GOOD.

IT'S BEN. HE'S IN ***REAL*** TROUBLE. HE'S NOT ONE HUNDRED PERCENT BUT I'M NOT SURE I'M WHAT HE NEEDS.

I'M ONLY ABOUT FIFTY PERCENT MYSELF.

THEN BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU THERE'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ONE WHOLE SPIDER-MAN, RIGHT?

LOVE IT WHEN YOU TALK MATH.

GO ON...

STATEN ISLAND.

"...YOUR BROTHER NEEDS YOU."

THERE IT IS.

WHOA. ALMOST MISSED THAT LANDING. MUST BE THE ADRENALINE.

FOCUS, REILLY.

REMEMBER WHY YOU'RE HERE.

REMEMBER WHAT THEY *TOOK*.

WHO I...

...I...

BEN?

...HELLO? EARTH TO SPIDER-MAN?

WHO--?

I MADE IT.

OH, HEY.

HEY...

PETER.

PETER.

LOOK AT YOU! ALL AMAZING AGAIN.

GREAT FOR YOU, BUDDY.

LOOK, BEN. I TALKED TO JANINE. SHE'S WORRIED. *WE'RE* WORRIED.

THEN YOU KNOW WHY TIME IS A FACTOR AND I HAVE TO GO ***RIGHT NOW.***

SURPRISINGLY, YEAH. STILL WANT SOME HELP?

DEPENDS.

CAN YOU ***NOT*** GET YOURSELF NUKED THIS TIME?

NO PROMISES.

THEN LET'S DO THIS.

THWP

THWP

JUST TRY AND STOP ME.

WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT, BRO.

WHAT LURKS BEHIND
DOOR
?!

BEYOND SUPER VILLAIN PROGRAM, STATEN ISLAND.

ON YOUR RIGHT!

THAT'S *YOUR* RIGHT!

SKRZZZT

...YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHAT IS *HAPPENING* TO ME?

I'M...I'M HERE TO EXPOSE THE BEYOND SUPER VILLAIN PROGRAM...RIGHT?

THWIP

BEHIND YOU!

...

PETER IS HELPING. BUT

IS THAT *ALL* I'M HERE FOR? IT'S HARD TO CONNECT EVERYTHING IN MY MIND NOW. THERE ARE THESE BLANKS

THWIP THWIP

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?

I... YEAH...

WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED BEFORE WE GOT HERE, BUT THINGS ARE SORTA... WELL, ***BAD*** IS THE WORD THAT COMES TO MIND.

AND I DON'T JUST MEAN BECAUSE BEYOND HAS CLEARLY BEEN UP TO NO GOOD HERE...

I MEAN MORE THAT MOST OF THE "NO GOOD" STUFF SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN OUT IN THE LAST FIVE MINUTES.

BEN, IF EITHER OF US IS GETTING OUT OF HERE ALIVE, I NEED YOUR HELP.

I CAN DO THAT.

WE CAN DO THAT.

THWIP THWIP THWIP

SO, THAT WILL BUY US SOME TIME-- WHAT'S THE PLAN?

I...

BEN? BEN, WHAT'S WRONG?

GASP IT--IT'S NOTHING. I--I'M FINE.

UH. HEY, YOU, UH, YOU OKAY THERE, LITTLE BUDDY?

LOOKS LIKE YOU AVOIDED OUR WEBBING PRETTY EASILY...BUT MAYBE THAT'S OKAY... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE, RIGHT?

Meep.

AWWW. IT'S SO CUTE... OH, YOU'RE BARFING.

BLARGGGHHH

AH, CRAP. THEY'RE SUPER MEAN. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. TOO CUTE IS ALWAYS A RED FLAG.

Grraah!

BEN!

BEYOND HEADQUARTERS.

DIRECTOR, WE HAVE A FULL-SCALE CONTAINMENT BREACH AT THE STATEN ISLAND LOCATION AND--

YES, THAT WAS ME. OUR LITTLE SPIDER NEEDS TO LEARN SOME *HARD LESSONS.*

OH. I SEE. OF COURSE.

ADVANCE TEAM IS ALREADY *EN ROUTE* TO CONTAIN THE BREACH?

YES, DIRECTOR.

GOOD. HAVE THE RECOVERY TEAM PREPPED. I SUSPECT THEY'LL BE NEEDED AS WELL BEFORE THIS IS OVER.

OF COURSE.

AND, FLETCHER? LET'S PUT THE WET WORK TEAM ON STANDBY.

...Y-YES, MA'AM.

IF WE HAVE TO OPEN *DOOR Z*, IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME.

...UNDERSTOOD.

GET IT TOGETHER. IT'S NOT REAL. WHATEVER THIS IS... IT'S *NOT REAL.*

GAH! BEN! LITTLE HELP?! I THINK... THEY MIGHT BE MULTIPLYING!

EXCEPT IT *IS.*

WHAT'S *MORE* REAL THAN WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE YOU? NOTHING MATTERS IF I CAN'T GET CLEAR OF THIS.

NO. I REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM. I *REFUSE* TO BREAK UNDER WHATEVER BEYOND HAS DONE. I CAN CHANGE THIS.

ALL OF *IT.*

THWIP

GRRREEEEP!

THWIP

THANKS. YOU OKAY?

NOT REALLY.

WELL... OKAY, THEN.

BEST I CAN DO RIGHT NOW.

BEEN THERE.

HAVE YOU?

YOU KNOW I HAVE.

...

THWIP

LET'S JUST GET THIS DONE.

I'M GONNA TAKE THIS WHOLE MESS OVER HERE-- YOU WANT THAT ONE?

YEAH, I GOT IT.

YOU GOT THIS IT'S FINE

NO!

THWIP

THWIP

BEN!

THWIP

KRRDADADASS

SHH

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS BADASS CAR CAN *FLY* TOO!

I DON'T THINK IT FLIES, GIRL-- WE'RE JUST FALLING!

AND WE MAKE IT LOOK *GOOOOD!*

LET'S JUST HOPE WE MAKE IT IN ONE PIECE. BEYOND ISN'T GONNA GIVE US A *THIRD CAR.*

THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

CRASH!

MEEEEEEP!

HELLO, SPIDERS. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HELP YOU GET THIS UNDER CONTROL, BUT WHAT'S THE *REAL* STORY?

MAYBE *DON'T* PUT A GIANT ESCAPE HATCH IN THE CEILING?

YEAH, THESE THINGS BEING TRAPPED IN HERE WAS MAYBE THE ONLY ADVANTAGE WE HAD?

PFFT. AREN'T YOU BOTH FILLED WITH STICKY WEB STUFF?

SPIDERS ARE LIKE 75% WEBS INSIDE.

MMMPH!

I MEAN, HER PERCENTAGES ARE *TERRIBLE*, BUT SHE'S NOT TOTALLY WRONG.

YEAH... OKAY, LET'S DO IT.

THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP THWIP

Meep?

THWP

I DON'T WANT TO BE JUDGMENTAL, BUT I'M NOT SURE YOU HAVE THE STATURE FOR THIS CHAIN SAW GIG, SIR.

THWP

YOU'RE EXTINCT. CALM DOWN.

RHNGGGGLLLUGGG

SQUAAAAWWWKK!

BOOM

NOT... COOL.

OH, DAMN. SORRY?

I SEE YOU HAVE SKILLS, CHICKEN-MAN. AND I SAY THEY ARE NOT ENOUGH!

IS IT ME, OR DO THESE FLOWER THINGS SMELL LIKE FARTS?

IT'S NOT YOU!

DIABOLICAL. I'D RATHER FIGHT ALMOST ANYTHING THAN FARTS.

KNOCK

COULD USE YOUR HELP WITH THE GIANT MECHA-SPIDER, BEN.

WOOMBA

WOOMBA

I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA!

THWIP

THWIP

IT'S ONLY BETTER IF IT'S VERY, VERY FAST!

SORRY, PETE. WE HAVE DIFFERENT AGENDAS.

STAR MOTEL

SPECIAL RATES

WI-FI

650

HVO

star MOTEL

SOMEWHERE IN NEW JERSEY.

HE'S FINE. YOU'RE FINE. IT'S ALL GOING TO BE FINE.

BUT NOT IF YOU DON'T TEXT ME, BEN!

I CAN'T JUST WAIT HERE FOREVER LIKE THIS. WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED?

12

THAT'S IT. I CAN'T DO IT LIKE THIS. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. I'M JUST NOT BUILT TO SIT BY THE PHONE.

AND I'M NO DAMN DAMSEL.

STATEN ISLAND.

HACKING IN THROUGH THIS CONTROL PANEL WAS EASY ENOUGH, BUT FINDING THE DATA MIGHT BE--

LOCKED

WAIT! NO! DAMMIT!

I MUST HAVE TRIPPED SOME KIND OF FAIL-SAFE. THE DATA IS SCRAMBLING...

BEN. ENOUGH. COME BACK IN. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO WORK THIS OUT.

WORK THIS OUT?! YOU'RE INSANE. WHAT YOU'RE DOING AT THIS FACILITY IS STRAIGHT UP VILLAIN #$%&.

IT'S NOT MY PROGRAM.

THAT'S CONVENIENT.

STOP THIS BEFORE IT GETS WORSE, BEN. I'VE GOT TEAMS COMING TO HELP CLEAN UP THE MESS. WE CAN WORK THIS OUT.

OR WHAT?

OR I GUESS I COULD OPEN DOOR Z TOO?

...Y'KNOW WHAT?

DON'T BOTHER. I'LL DO IT FOR YOU.

?!?!

PING

W--WHY-- WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?

KRR-THUNK

BECAUSE I NO LONGER CARE WHAT'S IN THERE, MAXINE. I CARE ABOUT *YOU*. I'M COMING FOR *YOU*. FOR ANSWERS. AND YOU'D BETTER HOPE I LIKE WHAT I FIND.

I'D BE RUNNING ALREADY IF I WERE YOU.

BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP

ALERT. DOOR Z HAS BEEN BREACHED.
ALERT. DOOR Z HAS BEEN BREACHED.

YOU EVER HAVE THAT FEELING... LIKE YOU JUST MADE A CHOICE THAT'S GONNA DEFINE YOU FOREVER? IT'S A VERY SPECIFIC KIND OF FEELING.

IT ALL FEELS FAMILIAR SOMEHOW...BUT IN A WAY I NO LONGER UNDERSTAND.

BEEEP

BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP

ALERT. DOOR Z HAS BEEN BREACHED.
ALERT. DOOR Z HAS BEEN BREACHED.

WHAT IS THAT INFERNAL BEEPING?

...BEN?

BEN, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

#$%&.

I'M SORRY. I CAN'T HAVE ANY OF YOU GETTING IN MY WAY.

TOSS

BOOM

BEEEP BEEEP
BEEEP BEEEP

ALL PERSONNEL ON SITE ARE TO EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY.

I...I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S LEAVING.

HE'S IN MORE TROUBLE THAN I THOUGHT.

I THINK YOU MEAN US. *WE* ARE IN THE TROUBLE.

ALSO TRUE.

BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP

ALL PERSONNEL ON SITE ARE TO EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY.

BEEEP

THIS DOOR TAKES ITS TIME, *HUH?* VERY DRAMATIC.

I THINK YOU MEAN OMINOUS.

I MEAN WHAT I SAY. BUT IT IS ALSO OMINOUS. YES.

BEEEP BEEEP BEEEP

EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY.

I HOPE IT'S A PONY.

THWIP THWIP

UH, I DON'T WANT TO SEE WHAT BEYOND DOES TO PONIES.

I THINK I'M WITH THE SPIDER.

HOWEVER, SEALING US IN AGAIN? I KNOW IT'S THE RIGHT CALL, BUT I DON'T LOVE IT.

ME NEITHER.

HAVE SOME HOPE-- MAYBE WE CAN HIT WHATEVER IT IS WITH THE CAR!

YOU REALLY LOVE THAT CAR.

I DO.

BEEEEEEEEEEE--

...I SORT OF EXPECTED TO BE HALF TORN UP BY NOW.

YEAH. AS WEIRD AS IT SOUNDS, I THINK ***NOTHING*** IS ACTUALLY SCARIER THAN IF THERE WAS SOMETHING COMING ***AT*** US.

GRRRRRRR

SKKKKKKK!

I WAS WRONG-- THIS IS *WORSE.*

CONNORS? WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?

#$%&.

BEYOND CORPORATION #92

OKAY, LET'S CATCH UP.

BEN REILLY-- THE *OTHER* SPIDER-MAN--

--NO, NOT *THAT* OTHER ONE, THE *OTHER*, OTHER ONE--

--JUST RELEASED ONE OF BEYOND'S BIGGER AND BADDER BIG BADDIES BEFORE TAKING OFF ALL ON HIS UNSTABLE LONESOME *FOR WHATEVER REASON...*

POW! POW!

CHANGG

POW

...SO GUESS *WHO* HAS TO TAKE CARE OF IT?

HSSSS!

CONNORS! HI!

ALSO, CAN'T BREATHE!

RELAX, BABY.

GIMME A MINUTE AND I'LL HAVE THIS GUY...

...CUT DOWN TO SIZE.

SKKK

YOU SURE THAT'S CURT CONNORS? DON'T REMEMBER HIM HAVING WINGS.

SURE? NO.

ZONE

BUT WE SHOULD KNOW *ANY* SECOND.

SPIDER-TECH

REGENERATING LIMBS. CHECK. THAT'S THE LIZARD.

ISN'T HE USUALLY GREENER?

YEAH, AND THOSE WINGS ARE FAMILIAR.

I THINK IT'S SOMETHING *NEW.*

THEY TOOK A BIT OF THE *LIZARD...*

...AND MIXED IT WITH SOME OF THAT!

SOME OF *WHAT?!*

SOME OF *THAT.*

IT'S A VAMPIRE-LIZARD!

BEYOND HQ, MANHATTAN.

I'M NOT A BAD PERSON.

ACCESS RESTRICTED--

BODY SCENT VERRRR-IFFFF-IED--

OR AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I *TELL* MYSELF.

THERE'S A HOLE IN MY MEMORIES, A YAWNING *PIT*. THE MEMORIES THAT PETER AND I SHARED.

--KRZZKK--

--SPI-SPI-SPIDER-MAN-N-N-N--

THE KIND OF MEMORIES THAT *SHOULD* MAKE ME FEEL TERRIBLE FOR TAKING LANGSTON APART LIKE THAT.

EVEN IF HE *WAS* JUST A *MACHINE*.

PETER WOULD FEEL BAD.

I DON'T FEEL A THING

BUT MAYBE THAT'S A GOOD THING, ACTUALLY. IN THIS VERY MOMENT.

WE'VE GOT EYES ON HIM!

STAND DOWN, SPIDER-MAN!

AFTER ALL, IF I *COULD* FEEL BAD FOR THE THINGS I'M DOING...

THIS WOULD BE A WHOLE LOT HARDER.

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

...ARE WE UNDERSTOOD?

YES, YES, YOU'VE ALL MADE THIS FAILURE ***PERFECTLY*** CLEAR.

I'M PREPARING THE FAIL-SAFES AS WE SPEAK. THE DATA WILL BE BACKED UP TO THE OFF-SITE FARMS. FLOODING THE LOWER LEVELS WITH ***PSYCHO-REACTIVE QUANTUM-SHIFTING GOO®*** WILL TAKE CARE OF ANY OTHER INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE...

...AND YOU ***FINE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD*** WILL BE SAFE FROM ANY REPERCUSSIONS OF ***LEGALITY*** OR ***PUBLICITY.***

IT'S NOT AS IF THIS IS THE ***FIRST*** TIME I'VE SCUTTLED AN OPERATION.

GOD, WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE A ***BIG RED BUTTON?***

WE'VE GOT EYES ON HIM!

STAND DOWN, SPIDER-MAN!

AAAHHHH!!!

OH NO.

"HE'S COME FOR ME."

HMM.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

LET'S LET HIM OUT. IT'LL BE FUN.

I DON'T KNOW.

COME ON--CAN IT BE WORSE THAN WHAT WE'RE IN *NOW?*

COLLEEN, IT CAN *ALWAYS* BE A *WHOLE LOT WORSE.*

BOOM

CAN WE COME TO A CONSENSUS SOON, PLEASE?!

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

OKAY, FINE.

WORSE COMES TO WORST, MAYBE WE CAN *JAM HIM DOWN* CREATURE Z'S *NECK* AND *CHOKE IT.*

YAAAAY!

BOOMBOOMBOOM

RAAAAAGH!!!

HEY THERE, HANDSOME.

HOW YOU FEELING?

...I...

I AM... *MYSELF* AGAIN.

MY CONDITION... MY SYSTEM WAS PUT IN *CRISIS*.

BEYOND *STABILIZED* IT.

WAIT... BEYOND DID YOU A *SOLID*?

NO. IT WAS TO MAKE IT EASIER TO *EXPERIMENT* ON ME. TO *CUT ME*, TO TAKE *SAMPLES*. I ASSURE YOU, I BEAR BEYOND NOTHING BUT *ENMITY*.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY, MORBIUS...

...HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE SOME OF THAT *ENMITY* AND *GIVE US A HAND*, HUH?

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

I HAD TO RELEASE CREATURE Z.

PETER, COLLEEN, MISTY... THEY WOULDN'T HAVE UNDERSTOOD.

I NEEDED *SOMETHING* TO DISTRACT THEM, SO I COULD DO WHAT I *HAVE TO DO.*

I NEED MY MEMORIES BACK.

THE ONES FROM *PETER*. THE ONES THAT TELL ME *WHO I AM*. HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO *LIVE*.

I'M *NOT* A BAD PERSON.

I JUST *NEED* MY *MEMORIES* BACK.

AND THIS IS WHERE THEY'RE KEEPING THEM.

THIS IS WHERE THEY'RE KEEPING THEM FROM *ME*.

I'M GOING TO GET THEM BACK.

I'M GOING TO GET *RIGHT.*

FLUTTER FLUTTER

WHAT--

I'M GOING TO--

THE EATER HAS BECOME THE EATEN!

THE EATER HAS BECOME THE EATEN!

YAAAHH!

WAIT.

THE BANGING STOPPED? IT'S GONE?

WELL, HEY, GOOD JOB ALL AROUND!

NO--

IF CREATURE Z ISN'T AFTER *US*, IT MUST BE ESCAPING THE FACILITY!

THERE ARE *INNOCENT PEOPLE* OUT THERE!

YOU LET *US* DEAL WITH THAT. COLLEEN, MIKE, AND I CAN HANDLE CREATURE Z. WE'LL CALL IN AUNTIE MONICA TO COME CLEAN UP TOO.

YOU GO FIND BEN. HE NEEDS *SOMEONE*, AND *YOU'RE* THE BEST BET.

ARE YOU *SURE?*

A GIANT VAMPIRE LIZARD IS, SURPRISINGLY, *WELL* WITHIN OUR WHEELHOUSE, REALLY.

BESIDES, WE'VE GOT *MIKE* ON OUR SIDE NOW.

WHO IS "MIKE"?

IT'S YOU. *YOU'RE* MIKE.

I PREFER "MICHAEL." OR "DOCTOR MORBIUS."

WHATEVER YOU SAY, MIKE.

WAAAM

TOO TIGHT IN HERE--

GOT TO GET CLEAR BEFORE THEY EAT ME ALIVE--

FWOOOOSH

WHAT?

HEY, BABY.

JANINE--

I--

JANINE, IT'S ALL GONE TO *HELL*--

I KNOW--

THERE'S NO COMING *BACK* FROM THIS--

I KNOW, BEN. I KNOW.

IT WAS *ALWAYS* TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

ME OUT OF PRISON? *YOU* AS SPIDER-MAN?

WE *KNEW* THAT, EVEN IF WE DIDN'T WANT TO SAY IT OUT LOUD.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

I'VE GOT *YOU*. EVERYTHING *ELSE*, WE'LL *PUNCH* OUR WAY THROUGH TILL WE'RE *CLEAR*.

YOU AND ME, ON THE RUN. LIKE THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

YOU WITH ME?

PLEASE.

"OF *COURSE* I AM."

BEN'S GONE COMPLETELY OFF THE RAILS. HE'S COMING AFTER ME.

HE NEEDS ***HELP***, AND NO ONE IS BETTER SUITED TO HELP HIM THAN YOU...

...*MARCUS.*

UNBELIEVABLE.

AFTER ALL THE ***THINGS***--

EVERYTHING YOU'VE ***DONE***--

MARCUS.

WHATEVER YOU MAY THINK OF ***ME***, BEN REILLY IS STILL IN YOUR ***CARE***. AND HE IS IN ***CRISIS***.

SO, ARE YOU GOING TO ***HELP*** HIM?

FINE.

I KNOW YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT BEN. I KNOW YOU'RE JUST PUTTING ***ME*** BETWEEN ***HIM*** AND ***YOU***.

I'LL STAY HERE AND KEEP HIM FROM KILLING YOU, MAXINE. BUT NOT FOR YOU.

FOR ***HIM***.

YES, YES. YOU'RE ***VERY*** PRINCIPLED, MARCUS.

A ***CREDIT*** TO THE COMPANY.

YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, MIKE?

OF *COURSE* I AM.

I HAVE WON THE *NOBEL PRIZE* FOR *BIOCHEMISTRY.* I UNDERSTAND MY CONDITION AND HOW IT MANIFESTS IN OTHERS.

AND IT'S "DOCTOR MORBIUS."

LET'S COMPROMISE.

"DOCTOR MIKE"?

FEH. *FINE.*

COMPROMISE, DOCTOR MIKE...

...MAKES THE WORLD GO 'ROUND.

URMMMMMMM

HRRNNNN!?

THUMP

SQUEEEEEEE!

GET ON THE GOOD FOOT--LET'S GO!

BLAMM

BLAMM

BLAMM

KIAI!

HSSSSS!

YAAAGGHH!

WHAMM

HSSSSSS!

THAT'S RIGHT--COME ON!

COLLEEN!

YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD, PAL. YOU JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET!

IS COLLEEN RIGHT OR NEARLY DEAD?! FIND OUT IN **ASM #92.BEY!** WE GOTTA GET BACK TO SPIDEY! -NL

--YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING?

YEAH. I KNOW A *LOT* *MORE* ABOUT THIS PLACE THAN THEY THINK I DO. DO YOU?

I THINK SO. MAXINE KNOWS I'M COMING FOR HER. AND SHE KNOWS I WANT MY MEMORIES BACK. IT'S THE ONLY BARGAINING CHIP SHE HAS.

MEANWHILE, I NEED TO FIND MARCUS AND GET HIM CLEAR BEFORE WE *BURN THIS PLACE TO THE GROUND.*

AND *THIS* IS MY TURN.

C'MERE.

I DON'T REMEMBER RIGHT FROM WRONG.

I DON'T REMEMBER ALL THE LESSONS THAT TAUGHT ME HOW TO LIVE.

BUT *JANINE*, ALL MY MEMORIES OF *HER*--THOSE ARE *MINE*. *ONLY* MINE.

THAT'S WHAT I'VE GOT TO ANCHOR ME.

I'M NOT A BAD PERSON.

I CAN'T BE FOR HER.

BECAUSE SHE'S HAD *ENOUGH* BAD PEOPLE IN HER LIFE.

SO IT'S TIME TO GET MY MEMORIES BACK AND BE WHO I SHOULD BE.

#92.BEY

BEYOND CORPORATION

STATEN ISLAND.

YEEK!

HELL.

GOT YOU NOW.

HISSSS!

YEAAARRGHHH!

COLLEEN! WE GOOD?

I THINK SO? MAYBE?

YES... DRINK...

DRINK DEEPLY, CREATURE.

THE CONNORS FORMULA...AND THE MORBIUS CONDITION.

THEY ARE BOTH IN YOU, BOTH IN BALANCE.

BUT IF THAT BALANCE WERE TO BE UPSET...

...IF THE DEATH IN MY BLOOD SHOCKED YOUR REGENERATIVE ABILITIES OUT OF CONTROL...

...WELL, WOULDN'T THAT BE INTERESTING?

RRRRRRRNNN...

HNN.
HNN.
HNN.
HNN.
REEEAAARGGH!

SHRRK!

WELL, THAT WAS GROSS.

YEP. GOOD WORK, DOCTOR MIKE.

SO, WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU, DOCTOR MIKE?

NEXT?

NEXT, I THINK THAT I WOULD LIKE TO NEVER SEE EITHER OF YOU TWO EVER AGAIN.

THAT'S FAIR!

YO, MISTY, YOU THINK MONICA GOT OUR MESSAGE?

SHE DAMN WELL *BETTER* HAVE-- I'M TIRED, GIRL.

I GUESS WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT...

...I'M NOT WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL "LIKEABLE."

IT'S NOT AS IF I DIDN'T *TRY.* BACK WHEN I STARTED.

I WENT FROM A *NOBODY* TO AN *AVENGER*, JUST LIKE THAT.

I KEPT *SMILING.* I KEPT PLAYING *NICE*, LIKE EVERYONE EXPECTED.

I EVEN MADE IT TO THE BIG SEAT: MONICA RAMBEAU, CAPTAIN MARVEL, *AVENGERS CHAIRWOMAN.*

THAT'S WHAT BEING LIKEABLE GETS YOU, SOMETIMES.

BUT THEN I *LOST* ALL THAT. YOU KNOW WHY?

DR. ANTHONY LUDGATE DRUID. MY AVENGERS *TEAMMATE.*

ONE OF THE MOST *UNLIKEABLE* MEN IN THE WORLD.

HE UNDERMINED ME RIGHT OUT OF THE BIG SEAT, RIGHT OUT OF THE AVENGERS. AND I COULDN'T STOP HIM.

BECAUSE I WAS CONCERNED WITH *DECORUM.*

BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE A *SCENE.*

BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE *LIKEABLE.*

SO IF SOMEONE *LITERALLY EVERYONE HATED* COULD TAKE DOWN THE LEADER OF THE AVENGERS *JUST LIKE THAT...*

...MAYBE IT WAS TIME TO QUIT PLAYING *NICE*, AND TIME TO START PLAYING TO *WIN.*

GOODBYE, CAPTAIN MARVEL.

HELLO, AUNTIE MONICA.

AND IT *WORKED.*

I LED A TEAM OF THE MOST UNLIKEABLE [redacted] YOU EVER MET AND TOOK DOWN ALL SORTS OF HORRIBLE PEOPLE.

THAT WAS THE *FIRST* TIME I TANGLED WITH THE BEYOND CORPORATION.

JUST ANOTHER GROUP THAT WANTS TO MAKE LIFE WORSE FOR EVERYONE.

HIDING BEHIND "RESPECTABILITY."

WIELDING IT LIKE A WEAPON.

THEY CALL YOU *ANGRY*--FOR ACTING AGAINST THEM, FOR BREAKING THE RULES *THEY* MAKE UP. CALL YOU *CRAZY*, CALL YOU *DANGEROUS*.

CALL YOU *UNLIKEABLE*.

SO I SAY:

BE ANGRY.
BE CRAZY.
BE DANGEROUS.

BE UNLIKEABLE.

TREAT YOURSELF. YOU'VE EARNED IT.

THIS IS THE *THIRD TIME* I'VE TAKEN BEYOND DOWN.

I'VE USED ANY NUMBER OF SPIDER-MEN AND DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON TO DO IT.

BUT FOR THIS KIND OF WORK, THE ACTUAL *GETTING-YOUR-HANDS-DIRTY-AND-BURNING-DOWN-A-MULTINATIONAL-CONGLOMERATE,* I NEED SOMEONE *TRULY,* REALLY TRULY...

...UNLIKEABLE.

THERE YOU ARE, YOU [illegible].

GO AWAY, FLESHY ONE.

SO WHAT IS IT *THIS* TIME, AARON?

MY GIRLFRIEND LEFT ME.

BECAUSE I'M A [redacted].

SO I THOUGHT, WHAT THE HELL? MAYBE I COULD BE A SUPER VILLAIN.

AFTER THE EVENTS OF **IRON MAN 2020.** --NL.

THAT'D SHOW HER!

SO I JOINED THE BEYOND VILLAIN PROGRAM.

BUT IT TURNS OUT I'M TOO DEPRESSED TO EVEN DO **THAT.**

DID YOU KNOW I'M NOT EVEN THE **REAL** MACHINE MAN?

THE **MACHINE** MAY BE COLD AND EMOTIONLESS...

...BUT THE **MAN**--OH, THE **MAN!**

FOR GOD'S SAKE!

STUPID!

KLUDD

ROBOT!

KLUDD

!@#$%^&!

KLUDD

AAAHHH!

YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT YOUR *FEELINGS*, AARON?!

YOU THINK I CAME HERE TO *HELP* YOU?

I CAME HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE A !@#$%^&...

...AND YOU'RE *MY* !@#$%^&.

AND THERE'S A WHOLE STABLE OF BEYOND MONSTERS OUT THERE THAT I HAVE TO DEAL WITH.

AND THEY'RE *FLESHY.*

HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

OH, AUNTIE MONICA ALWAYS KEEPS TRACK OF HER HORRIBLE CHILDREN.

TABBY'S OVER ON SOME MUTANT SEX-ISLAND, ELSA'S IN ENGLAND--

UGH.

--AND CAP... WELL, THAT'S A WHOLE 'NOTHER THING.

THAT'S A SHAME.

I WAS HOPING THEY WERE ALL DEAD.

SURE, MISTY, COLLEEN AND SPIDER-MAN--

--ONE OF THEM, AT LEAST--

--ARE GOING AFTER THE *BIG* MONSTER.

DO I WISH I'D GONE WITH THEM? GO PUNCH OUT DRACZILLA?

OF COURSE I DO.

THAT DOESN'T DO THE FINE RESIDENTS OF STATEN ISLAND MUCH GOOD WITH ALL THE *REST* OF BEYOND'S BUILD-A-MONSTER PROGRAM RUNNING LOOSE THOUGH.

AND BESIDES:

I WANT TO MAKE SURE THIS PLACE BURNS TO THE GROUND *MYSELF.*

AND SPEAKING OF WHICH--

AARON!

AARON, I NEED YOU TO USE YOUR ROBOT BRAIN!

MY BIG, BEAUTIFUL ROBOT BRAIN!

NO WAY! ABSOLUTELY NOT!

SAY IT! SAY YOU NEED MY BIG, BEAUTIFUL ROBOT BRAIN!

I NEED YOUR BIG, BEAUTIFUL ROBOT BRAIN.

THE OTHER BONUS TO WORKING WITH AN UNLIKEABLE TEAM IS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL BAD IF THEY DIE.

OR IF YOU KILL THEM.

I NEED YOU TO *PLUG* INTO THE FACILITY'S MASTER *SYSTEM!*

SOUNDS DIRTY.

IT'S--NO, I WANT YOU TO SET THE BUILDING TO *SELF-DESTRUCT!*

SOUNDS FILTHY.

KA-CHUK

KILLING AN ENTIRE FACILITY WITH MY BIG, BEAUTIFUL ROBOT BRAIN.

WHO'S DIRECTIONLESS NOW, JOCASTA?!

IS IT REALLY THAT EASY?

OF COURSE IT IS.

BEYOND'S NEVER MET A MAD-SCIENCE SELF-DESTRUCT SYSTEM IT DIDN'T LIKE.

snnnnrrrrrkt!

AND BESIDES, FIVE MINUTES OF *TALKING* WITH AARON IS ENOUGH TO MAKE *ME* WANT TO KILL MYSELF.

GOD KNOWS WHAT A *DIRECT A.I. CONNECTION* WOULD BE LIKE.

YOU KNOW, I THINK THIS IS A REAL IMPROVEMENT FOR YOU, AARON.

HMM.

SO THE CHICKENS HAVE *INDEED* COME HOME TO ROOST.

NEXTWAVE.

OR *TWO-FIFTHS* OF NEXTWAVE, AT ANY RATE. OR...

...ACTUALLY, I DON'T KNOW HOW THE FRACTIONS WORK OUT IF THE ROBOT DOESN'T HAVE A HEAD.

MAXINE.

SO NICE OF YOU TO CALL.

SAVED ME THE QUARTER.

A PAYPHONE JOKE?

GOD, HOW OLD ARE YOU--SIXTY-FIVE?

IT WAS *ME*, MAXINE. I WANT YOU TO *KNOW THAT.*

TELL THAT TO WHOEVER YOU WORK FOR.

IT WAS ME ALL ALONG.

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON? WORKING FOR ME THE WHOLE TIME. *THAT'S* WHY YOU DON'T HAVE THE HEARTSTAR. *THAT'S* WHY YOU'VE BEEN UNDERMINED. ALL TO TAKE YOU DOWN.

AND NOW I HAVE.

YOU--

I--

YOU LITTLE [illegible].

YEAH, YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.

BECAUSE I AM THAT ******.

HEY, WHAT DID I MISS?

DO YOU THINK YOU'VE WON?

DO YOU THINK THAT THIS WILL SET ME BACK AT ALL?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF THE RESOURCES AT MY COMMAND.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH.

SO YOU DESTROYED MY MONSTERS.

I'LL JUST MAKE MORE.

MAYBE.

BUT NOT HERE.

KRA-KOOMM!

MUSIC TO MY EARS.

THE GOOD NEWS: I DID AN EXCEPTIONAL JOB.

THE BAD NEWS?

I DID AN EXCEPTIONAL JOB.

MONICA, MY BIG, BEAUTIFUL ROBOT BRAIN PREDICTS THAT OUR CHANCES OF GETTING OUT BEFORE THIS FACILITY COLLAPSES ON US ARE, UH, MINIMAL.

WHO'S "WE," MACHINE MAN?

ONE OF US CAN FLY AT LIGHTSPEED, REMEMBER?

OH, NO--

YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE ME HERE--?

MONICA, PLEASE, AUNTIE MONICA, MY FAVORITE FLESHY ONE, AVENGERS CHAIRWOMAN CAPTAIN MARVEL--

HAHA!

RELAX, AARON.

AUNTIE MONICA'S GOT SOMETHING SHE'S BEEN SAVING FOR A RAINY DAY.

KI-BOOM!

GAAAAAHHH!

OH, DON'T BE SUCH A BABY.

WELL, *THAT* WAS FUN.

HMM. YEAH.

SO NOW WHAT, FLESHY ONE?

WELL, BEYOND'S STILL GOT LOTS OF MAD-SCIENCE SITES...

...HOW ABOUT WE GO ON AND DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN?

BEYOND HQ.

IT'S PAINFULLY OBVIOUS WHY YOUR BRIEF TIME AT BEYOND HAS "LED TO THIS TERMINATION AND EXIT INTERVIEW.

I WANNA LET YOU SPEAK, HR LADY, BUT FIRST OFF, I NEED TO SPEAK POWER TO MY TRUTH!

YOU SEE, THE THING ABOUT YOU GETTING READY TO *FIRE* ME IS THAT YOU *SHOULDN'T.*

...

'CAUSE, YOU KNOW, ALL THE COMPANY RESOURCES BEYOND USED UP ON ACCOUNT OF MY GETTING KIDNAPPED BY KRAVEN ISN'T EVEN REALLY ON ME. LIKE, THAT SHOULD BE *HIS* FAULT, YOU KNOW.

MR. SIRAVANTA--

MA'AM, *RESPECTFULLY*, IMMA NEED YOU TO CALL ME "DOUG." ALSO, I'M STILL IN THE PROCESS OF LETTING YOU SPEAK, BUT I JUST NEED TO FINISH PLEADING MY CASE FIRST.

WHERE WAS I? OH YEAH.

SO I, LIKE, I KNOW BEYOND BRASS WAS HOT ON ACCOUNT OF ME GETTING KIDNAPPED, BUT YOU SEE, IF I DIDN'T *ALLOW* MYSELF TO GET DRUNK AT THAT NEW HIRE MIXER TO DRAW KRAVEN OUT, THEN SPIDER-MAN NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STOP HIM. SEE, I GOT *THE VISION.* I'M TALKING *FIFTH DIMENSIONAL CHESS* HERE.

IS THIS THE SAME "VISION" THAT TOLD YOU TO STEAL EXPERIMENTAL EQUILIBRIUM MEDICINE FROM R&D SO YOU COULD, AND I QUOTE, "HELP MY BOY SPIDEY GET HIS MIND RIGHT"?

SEE, WHAT HAD HAPPENED WAS, I DIDN'T STEAL *ANYTHING*, 'CAUSE THEY WERE *GIVEN* TO ME!

BY WHO?

UM, DANG--I'M ACTUALLY BLANKIN' ON HIS NAME RIGHT NOW, BUT HE HAD A KIND SPIRIT. HE GAVE 'EM TO ME AT THE BAR.

YOU TOOK UNVETTED PILLS FROM A STRANGER AT A BAR AND THEN GAVE THEM TO SPIDER-MAN? OUR *FLAGSHIP PROGRAM?*

UMM...

DANG, YOU *KNOW WHAT?* I THINK THAT WAS ACTUALLY *KEITH--*

THERE'S ALSO THE DOCTOR OCTOPUS INCIDENT, WHERE YOU WERE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDING OVER A VALUABLE PIECE OF COMPANY DATA?

USING BEYOND A.I. INFRASTRUCTURE TO MANIPULATE AND INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING SNEAKER DROPS.

I DON'T REALLY BE MAKING ENOUGH TO *AFFORD* RESALE!

USING THE TEMPORAL-FORGING DEPARTMENT TO ARTIFICIALLY INFLATE THE TIME OF YOUR LUNCH BREAKS.

THEY GOT THE BREAK ROOM WITH THE *GOOD* WATER!

IGNORING *REPEATED* REQUESTS TO STOP ENDING YOUR EMAILS WITH "DOUG THE THUG, A.K.A. THE LAOTIAN COMMOTION."

WHAT I'M NOT UNDERSTANDING IS WHY BEYOND WON'T LET ME BE *GREAT!*

LOOK, MISS HR LADY, I KNOW I'VE MESSED UP A FEW TIMES BUT I'M DOING MY BEST, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED!

I'M SORRY, MR. SIRAVANTA, BUT THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.

--LINE?!

FINALIZE EMPLOYEE TERMINATION?

ONCE I CLICK THIS, YOU'LL NEED TO SIGN THE--

I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

EXIT CALMLY AND ASE REFER TO YOUR PLOYEE HANDBOOK.

YOND LOVES YOU.

IS THAT A QUESTION OR A STATEMENT? 'CAUSE, LIKE, IT SOUNDED LIKE YOU WERE ASKING A QUESTION, BUT, LIKE, THEN I WAS THINKING, "WAIT A MINUTE, DOUG, THIS HAS BIG *STATEMENT ENERGY.*"

YEAH, LIKE, *THAT'S* A STATEMENT. NOW I HAVE ZERO CONFUSION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THAT WAS A PROCLAMATION-- HEY, *WHERE'RE YOU GOING?!*

FINALIZE EMPLOYEE TERMINATION?

YES/NO

GULP

CLICK

EMPLOYEE PROMOTION COMPLETE.

LOWER LEVELS.

WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM AT THE CORPORATE LEVEL. I KNOW WHEN I OFFERED A PLACE IN BEYOND'S ***HERO DIVISION*** THERE WAS A LOT OF TALK ABOUT DEFENDING THE WEAK...

..BUT THERE WAS ALSO SOME FINE PRINT ABOUT PROTECTING BEYOND ASSETS.

THAT'S THE PERTINENT INFORMATION HERE.

I READ THE FINE PRINT, MAXINE. I'M ***VERY*** CLOSE WITH A LAWYER.

WHATEVER YOUR PROBLEM IS, WE'RE HUNGRY TO DO SOME GOOD.

...JUST POINT ***THE SLINGERS*** TOWARD THE BAD GUY.

I LOVE YOUR CONTRACTUALLY OBLIGATED ENTHUSIASM, HORNET.

FOLLOW ME.

WHOA...

SOMEBODY'S ANGRY.

NO. SOMEONE'S *HURTING* VERY BADLY.

VERY DEEPLY.

SHHH NOW.

SOME THINGS ARE BETTER IF YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT THEM TOO MUCH.

MAXINE, THIS ISN'T A JOKE TO US. TELL US WHAT'S GOING ON.

TAKE A PEEK FOR YOURSELF. BYE NOW.

HI THERE...

...YOU NEXT?

OH, #$%&.

EPILOGUE 1.

THEY CHANGED ME.

I TRY TO REMEMBER WHO I WAS.

I HAD A LIFE. IT WASN'T PERFECT. BUT IT WAS MINE.

BUT EVERY TIME I HONE IN ON WHO I *USED* TO BE, EVERY TIME I *PICK* AT THOSE MEMORIES LIKE A *SCAB*...

THE *LAUGHTER* WASHES IT ALL AWAY.

HEH...

...EHEHEHEH...

HA HA HA HA HA HA

I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING.

WHENEVER I *TRY*, THE LAUGHTER JUST ECHOES AROUND *INSIDE* OF MY SKULL. AND THEN ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS *HURTING PEOPLE*.

HURTING *SPIDER-MAN*.

BECAUSE WHAT THEY DID TO ME. WHAT THEY *PUT* IN ME. THE *STUFF* THAT MADE ME INTO *THIS*. THAT MAKES ME WANT TO *HURT* PEOPLE. TO HURT *SPIDER-MAN*...

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

...IT'S NOT *MINE*. IT NEVER *WAS*.

IT'S *HIS*.

NORMAN OSBORN'S.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

HE THINKS HE'S *FREE* OF THE GOBLIN. THAT HE CAN LIVE HIS *HAPPY LIFE*.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

BUT I'M GOING TO SHOW HIM HE CAN'T JUST *PASS OFF HIS SINS*. I'M GOING TO SHOW HIM...

...NO ONE WALKS AWAY.

SHRRKK

EPILOGUE 2.

BEYOND STATEN ISLAND.
(Or What's Left Of It.)

KRRRNCHHH

I SAW SOMETHING OUT THERE.

ONE OF THEIR "PRODUCTS." A CHIMERA OF MY OWN CONDITION AND *ANOTHER* WORK OF GENIUS, UNEXPECTED THOUGH ITS EFFECTS MAY HAVE BEEN.

THIS PIQUED MY INTEREST. I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, IF THE BEYOND TEAM COULD MAKE SUCH AN INTERESTING CREATURE WITH OUR UNIQUE CONDITIONS, *FLAWED* THOUGH IT WAS...

...WHAT *MIRACLES* COULD THE *ORIGINALS* PRODUCE BY WORKING *TOGETHER?*

WHAT DO YOU SAY, *DR. CONNORS?*

SHALL WE MAKE *MIRACLES?*

BEYOND CORPORATION #93

YOU WERE SPIDER-MAN THEN. YOU AND PETER HAD AGREED ON IT.

BUT HE CAME BACK RIGHT WHEN YOU STARTED FEELING COMFORTABLE.

YOU KNOW WHAT IT *MEANS* WHEN HE COMES BACK.

SO, WHAT'S THE *DEAL*, PETER--? WHAT IS THIS *JOB* ONLY *I* CAN HELP YOU WITH?

I MEAN, YOU'VE *GOT* YOUR SPIDER-STRENGTH BACK, EVEN IF IT IS *SPORADIC*...

OH, BRO, YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG. I DON'T NEED YOUR MUSCLE.

MARY JANE AND I WANT TO MAKE SOME ROOM...

MARY JANE. WAS SHE HERE? NO. YOU'RE CONFUSED.

YOU'RE IN ANOTHER ATTIC. PETER'S LAB. YOU WERE THE SCARLET SPIDER.

SHE WAS SAD, AND YOU KNEW IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOU.

SHE WASN'T SAD FOR LONG.

THIS IS PETER'S LIFE!

AND YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!

YOU'RE BACK IN THE ATTIC NOW. THE OTHER ATTIC.

WE JUST NEED TO GET RID OF SOME OF THIS STUFF.

YOU DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT BEING THERE WITH ALL OF THE PHOTOS *HIS* PHOTOS.

YOU DIDN'T WANT PETER TO SEE HOW BADLY YOU *WANTED* THEM.

YOU DIDN'T WANT HIM TO KNOW THAT MARY JANE WAS RIGHT.

YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST SWING BACK IN HERE AND CLAIM THE LIFE THAT'S RIGHTFULLY YOURS?!

YOU'RE VERY CONFUSED. WHEN WAS THIS?

DON'T BE SHY, BEN...

...THEY'RE *YOUR* MEMORIES TOO.

A-ARE YOU OKAY, BEN?

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY MEMORY.

O-OKAY, SURE. BUT YOU CAN'T BE IN BEYOND HEADQUARTERS ANYMORE. THEY WANT YOU OUT.

WHERE'S *MAXINE?*

WE CAN'T TELL YOU THAT, MAN!

BEN, IT'S US. THE SLINGERS. YOU *KNOW* US. TRY TO REMEMBER.

WHO SAID I *DIDN'T?*

SMASH!

OH, THIS IS INTERESTING.

THE EVALGORITHMS SAY BEYOND CAN SURVIVE THE BEN REILLY DISASTER AS LONG AS NO NEW STRESSORS ARE ADDED IN THE NEXT THIRTY HOURS.

JUST HAVE TO SCRUB THE COMPANY OF SPIDER-MAN.

SCRUB? LIKE MAKE HIM *DISAPPEAR?*

YOU'RE SO GOOD AT THIS, MARCUS.

BOTH OF THEM?

BOTH OF THEM? WHY DO YOU ASK?

BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE THE OTHER ONE IS ON HIS WAY.

WHA--? OH NO.

=SIGH=

I'LL INFORM THE BOARD.

I'M HERE.

PETER, BE CAREFUL. I KNOW YOU'RE MAD BEN LEFT ME TO...

...TO *FEND FOR MYSELF* AGAINST QUEEN GOBLIN, BUT HE WASN'T HIMSELF. I THINK HE'S HURTING.

IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING.

DON'T BE COLD, PETER. IT'S NOT YOU.

NO, I MEAN... I'VE GOT TROUBLE.

TALK SOON.

SPRK

SPRK

V-V-VOICE V-V-VERIFIED.

HEAT SIGNATURE V-VERIFIED.

BODY S-S-SCENT VERIFIED.

ELECTROMAGNETIC AURA VERIFIED.

WELCOME, SPIDER-MAN.

THANK YOU?

EVERY SETBACK IS AN OPPORTUNITY, MAXINE. GET YOUR GAME FACE ON.

SLAM

MAXINE!

WHAT DID YOU DO?!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?! MY MEMORIES--

GROW UP, REILLY. NO ONE DID ANYTHING TO YOU.

YOU KNEW THE RISKS OF OUR PROCEDURES. YOU AND KAFKA SAW TO IT THAT NO COPIES OF YOUR IMPLANTED MEMORIES WOULD BE HELD. ALL TO PROTECT YOUR FRIEND'S IDENTITY.

SO, IF WE AGREE THAT *YOU* MESSED THIS UP, THE ONLY QUESTION THAT REMAINS IS...

...DO YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO *FIX* IT?

IF YOU WANT TO HEAL YOURSELF, *HE* HAS EVERYTHING YOU NEED. THE MEMORIES YOU'VE LOST, GREEDILY HOARDED IN HIS BRAIN.

WE KNOW FROM STUDYING YOUR MIND WHERE THE OLD MEMORIES ARE HELD. THIS MACHINE CAN TAKE THEM FROM THE ORIGINAL SOURCE. I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY'RE PUT BACK WHERE THEY BELONG.

SURELY, HE'LL HELP YOU. AND IF HE DOESN'T...

...WELL...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

HE'S MY FRIEND.

HE'S MY FRIEND!

IS HE? I'M OFFERING YOU THE CHANCE TO BE WHOLE AGAIN. WILL HE DO THE SAME? AND IF NOT, DO YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO *MAKE HIM?*

AFTER ALL...

...THEY'RE *YOUR* MEMORIES TOO.

THERE. THAT SHOULD KEEP OUR SPIDER-MEN BUSY WHILE I SHUTTER OUR OPERATIONS HERE.

MARCUS?

Y-YES, MAXINE?

YOU'VE BEEN OF GREAT SERVICE TO ME. I'VE ORDERED THE ***KILL TEAM*** TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT. NO ALCOHOL INVOLVED, WHICH HAS A HIGHER LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY AND CARRIES MORE RISK, SO I HOPE YOU SEE IT AS THE ***REWARD*** IT IS.

OPEN CASKET. YOUR FAMILY WON'T BE ASHAMED.

MAXINE, DON'T DO THIS.

I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF OUR TIME TOGETHER. DON'T RUIN IT NOW WITH THE POOPY FACE.

BUT--

GOODBYE, MARCUS.

HE'S HERE! WHAT DO WE *DO*?!

GRAB THE *INFANTILIZER!*

GUYS! I'M JUST LOOKING FOR MY FRIEND.

GOTTA SAY, YOUR REACTION HAS ME WONDERING WHAT YOU'VE ALL BEEN UP TO IN HERE.

WHO TOOK THE INFANTILIZER?!

THIS IS WHY WE HAVE *PROTOCOLS*, DAMM--

GAHHH!!!

UGH!!!

BAM!

BAM!

BEN?!

HI, PETER.

B-BEN? ARE YOU OKAY, MAN?

I DID SOMETHING BAD. TO MY HEAD.

I NEED YOU TO PUT THIS ON.

BEN, I--I THINK YOU'RE REALLY CONFUSED RIGHT NOW--ABOUT BEYOND AND THEIR INTENTIONS.

YOU CAN'T ASK ME TO JUST PUT THAT ON.

THAT'S THE THING, PETER...

...I'M NOT ASKING.

SO, HOW DO YOU FIND YOURSELVES ON A "KILL SQUAD," ANYWAY? IS THAT SOMETHING YOU *SIGN UP* FOR?

OR DO THEY *TRICK* YOU? YOU THINK YOU'RE WORKING SECURITY AND THEN THEY'RE LIKE, "*SURPRISE!* KILL SQUAD."

SHUT UP, MARCUS.

JANINE?

SHE'S GOT A--

IT'S A--

WHAT IS THAT?

THE LABEL SAID IT WAS AN *INFANTILIZER.*

LET ME KNOW HOW IT TASTES.

SSSHZZZZARKKK!

WHOA!

GOO GEE GOO!

GOO GOO--

C-CAN WE TURN THEM BACK?

WHO CARES? THEY WERE GOING TO KILL YOU.

RIGHT.

LET'S GO.

I KNOW HOW TO GET OUT. IT'S THIS WAY.

WHO SAID WE'RE LEAVING?

PUT THAT DOWN, BEN. YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT.

"YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THAT."

YOUR VOICE. IT'S SO *FAMILIAR.*

IT LIVES IN MY HEAD. "YOU GREW UP IN QUEENS."

"YOU WERE BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER."

"YOU ARE PETER PARKER."

IT'S THE VOICE THAT TELLS ME MY LIFE... IN THE SECOND PERSON.

I'M THE SECOND PERSON.

AND NOW EVEN *THAT'S* GONE.

YOU DON'T GET TO KEEP MY LIFE FROM ME. YOU DON'T GET TO DECIDE ANYMORE.

YOU DON'T GET TO DECIDE!

BAM!

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.

BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL *HURT.*

NO, BECAUSE *YOU ARE!*

DON'T ACT LIKE YOU WANT TO HELP ME!

ALL I'VE EVER WANTED IS TO HELP YOU!

GWARRRRRGHHH!

APPROVED.
APPROVED.
APPROVED.
APPROVED.
IT'S DONE, MAXINE. LIQUIDATE THE LOWER LEVELS.
THE BOARD HAD HIGH HOPES FOR THIS FACILITY--WE HAD JUST BEGUN TO EXPLOIT PROJECT PURGATORY--YOUR FAILURE HAS COST US DEARLY.
THIS FAILURE WILL ONLY TEST THE *EFFICACY* OF OUR PROGRAMS. WE'LL KNOW ONCE AND FOR ALL THE VALUE OF OUR PRODUCT.
YES...IF ONLY YOU WERE GOING TO BE ALIVE TO SEE IT.
BUDDA
BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA
SHZZZARK
DAMMIT, MAXINE! HOLOGRAPHIC DECOYS ARE RESERVED FOR THE BOARD. THIS IS ACTIONABLE!
OOH! I HOPE I DON'T GET FIRED!
GOODBYE, GENTLEMEN. PRAY I DON'T VISIT YOU FOR AN EXIT INTERVIEW.

SMASH

STOP IT, BEN!

BAM!

YOU'RE NOT THE BETTER ONE, PETER.

THOK

YOU'RE JUST *OLDER.*

THWANG

WHA--?

SLRCH

AND YOU HATE ME BECAUSE I'M *NEW.*

AND I'M *TIRED* OF GETTING OUT OF THE WAY.

WHAM

CRASH

I DON'T HATE YOU!

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE IMPACT POLYMERS OR THE FACT YOU'VE BEEN IN A COMA FOR THREE MONTHS, BUT I DIDN'T EVEN *FEEL* THAT.

M-ME NEITHER.

CRACK

I JUST WANT WHAT'S *MINE*, PETER.

DEPLOY SPINNERET.

WHA--?

PLEASE RELAX.

YOU WILL BE RELEASED IN ONE HOUR. PLEASE USE THIS TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR LIFE.

YOUR LIFE. IT MUST BE *NICE.*

HNNG...

THEN WHY DO I HAVE TO *MAKE* YOU?

BEN, WE CAN FIGURE THIS OUT. I WANT TO *HELP* YOU.

MAXINE!

SHE'S GONE.

THAT'S NOT GOOD. SHE NEVER LEAVES.

OH NO...

QUANTUM-SHIFTING POLYMERS IN A PSYCHO-REACTIVE MEDIUM.

SCRUB IN PROGRESS...

SCRUB IN PROGRESS? WHAT'S A SCRUB IN PROGRESS?

SHE'S FLOODING THE LOWER LEVELS WITH QUANTUM-SHIFTING POLYMERS IN A PSYCHO-REACTIVE MEDIUM. IT'S A GOO THAT CONFUSES AND REWRITES MATTER. DESTROYS EVIDENCE.

AND *PEOPLE?*

NOT GREAT FOR THEM EITHER.

HELP ME FIND BEN.

ATTENTION, BEYOND STAFF, THIS LEVEL HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR MOLECULAR REARRANGEMENT.

LEGAL PERSONNEL (STAFF CREDENTIALED AT FOUR AND BELOW) EVACUATE NOW.

CLANDESTINE PERSONNEL (STAFF CREDENTIALED ABOVE LEVEL FIVE) PLEASE WAIT.

NNNGH!

BEN, WE'VE GOT TO GET *OUT* OF HERE.

STOP STRUGGLING. YOU'VE MET THE SPINNERET BEFORE.

IT WAS DESIGNED TO HOLD SOMEONE THREE TIMES AS STRONG AS YOU.

AND UNLIKE YOUR WEBS, IT DOESN'T DISSOLVE.

HEH.

NO, IT DOESN'T.

HEH. HEH.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

MY WEBS MAY DISSOLVE, BUT AT LEAST THEY DON'T STICK AROUND SO YOU CAN TAKE THEM APART AND FIND THE UNLOCK COMMAND.

YOU KNOW, LIKE *I* DID.

WHAT?

"JANINE 04-14."

PRIMARY USER RECOGNIZED. APOLOGIES FOR THE CONFUSION.

TEH

GONNA BE REAL HONEST WITH YOU, BEN...

...I'M SICK OF YOUR GADGETS!

SMASH

NO...

THAT'S IT, THEN...

...I'M GONE.

I'M NOTHING.

BEN, THERE'S NO WAY THAT HELMET *ACTUALLY*--

WE CAN GET YOU--

I'M NOTHING!

I HATE YOU!!!

YOU TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME!

I DIDN'T...

YOU DID THIS TO ME, PETER! I WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY IT!

SAY IT!

BEN... CAN'T BREATHE...

SAY IT!

BEYOND SUB-BASEMENT SELF-SCRUB-INITIATED. ALL LEGAL PERSONNEL SHOULD SEEK SAFETY NOW.

UNGH!

TK

TK

TK

TK

TK

CLANDESTINE PERSONNEL, PLEASE BREATHE CALMLY AND KNOW SACRIFICES LIKE YOURS HAVE MADE BEYOND ONE OF THE MOST TRUSTED BRANDS IN THE WORLD.

THUD

SAY IT...

BEN!

YOU HAVE IT *ALL*, PETER. ALL THE PARTS I'M *MISSING*.

I JUST WANTED THEM BACK.

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT *DID* THAT. WE CAN STILL GET YOU HELP!

WHY WOULD I EXPECT ANYONE TO HELP ME?

BEN! JUMP!

GOODBYE, PETER.

NO!

IT'S OKAY, PETER.

I'M ALREADY GONE.

DEAD SPACE

HUNNGH...

HEY!

THUMP

THIS WAY! COME ON! WE'VE GOT TO GO NOW!

BOOM!

THIS WHOLE THING IS COLLAPSING!

NO...

IT ALREADY HAS...

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
BOOM
WHOA!
D-DID THAT BUILDING JUST GET SHORTER?

DAYS.

LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE REALLY WORKED YOU OVER, MR. PARKER...

...WISH THE MUGGER KNEW YOU'D JUST GOTTEN OUT OF A COMA AND, ACCORDING TO OUR BILLING DEPARTMENT, HAVE *NO MONEY.*

NOT THAT I TAKE MUCH OF WHAT YOU TELL ME AT FACE VALUE.

ARE YOU CALLING MY NEPHEW A *LIAR,* DR. BURDICK?

NO, MA'AM. I WOULD NOT DO THAT IN FRONT OF YOU...

...WITHOUT A *HEAD START.*

BUT I AM CALLING THESE WOUNDS SUPERFICIAL. AND WITH HIS RECOVERY FROM RADIATION POISONING...

...YOU CAN TAKE HIM HOME.

NOT BEFORE I SPEAK TO THIS *BILLING DEPARTMENT* OF YOURS. SOUNDS LIKE THEY'VE BEEN A BIT *LIPPY* ABOUT MY PETER.

OH BOY...

PETER...

HE WAS SCARED, MJ.

HE JUST NEEDED HELP!

I KNOW, SWEETIE...

I KNOW...

THANK YOU FOR GOING BACK, MARCUS. THANK GOD YOU FOUND HIM.

IT WAS JANINE. SHE SENT ME AFTER PETER. AND SHE...

"...SHE COULDN'T LEAVE BEN."

Exit

BEN?

BEN!

EXPUNGING PSYCHO-REACTIVE GOO.

SHUFFLE

HUH?

HNNNNNN--

SHUFFLE

OH, BEN...

WEEKS.

THANKS FOR THAT.

WE'LL BUMP THE WALKS UP TO THREE MILES STARTING MONDAY. THINK YOUR BODY CAN TAKE IT?

UH, YEAH. THAT'S THE PLAN.

HAVE YOU BEEN TALKING TO NURSE LOIS?

YES, OF COURSE.

SOMEONE HAS TO KEEP YOU HONEST.

HA. YOU'RE THE BEST, MJ. EVEN WHEN YOU'RE VIOLATING THE SACRED TRUST BETWEEN PATIENT AND NURSE.

SEE YOU TOMORROW.

I THINK YOU SHOULD STAY.

THAT SOUNDS GREAT, BUT I'M SURE YOU KNOW ABOUT MY ORTHOPEDIC BED AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO MY RECOVERY.

NO, I MEAN FOR GOOD.

LIKE, MOVE IN.

OH, MJ. I...

OF COURSE I *WANT* THAT, BUT...

I'M A *MESS* RIGHT NOW.

YOU WANT ME TO WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE NOT A MESS?

WHEN ARE YOU NOT A MESS?

HEY. THERE WAS THAT...ONE TIME.

HA HA HA. OKAY, YOU'VE GOT ME.

YEAH. LET'S...LET'S DO IT.

LET'S...

MJ?

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

A ROAD OF BLOOD LED TO YOU...

COME WITH ME.

WHO ARE--?

MONTHS.

SHE DIDN'T LEAVE YOU. AND YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE HER. YOU KNOW THAT.

IT MIGHT BE *ALL* YOU KNOW.

STOP IT...

SLASH

NO...

STOP...

STOP!

CRA

SH

BEN?

NO. BEN IS GONE.

AND WHERE YOU WERE...

...THERE IS ONLY A CHASM.

#75 VARIANT BY
ALEX OGLE

BEYOND CORPORATION

BEYOND CORPORATION

#75 VARIANT BY
INHYUK LEE

#75 VARIANT BY
RON FRENZ, BRETT BREEDING & NOLAN WOODARD

BEYOND CORPORATION

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#75 VARIANT BY
SKOTTIE YOUNG

#75 STORMBREAKERS VARIANT BY
IBAN COELLO & EDGAR DELGADO

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JOE JUSKO

*76 MARVEL MASTERPIECES VARIANT BY
JOE JUSKO

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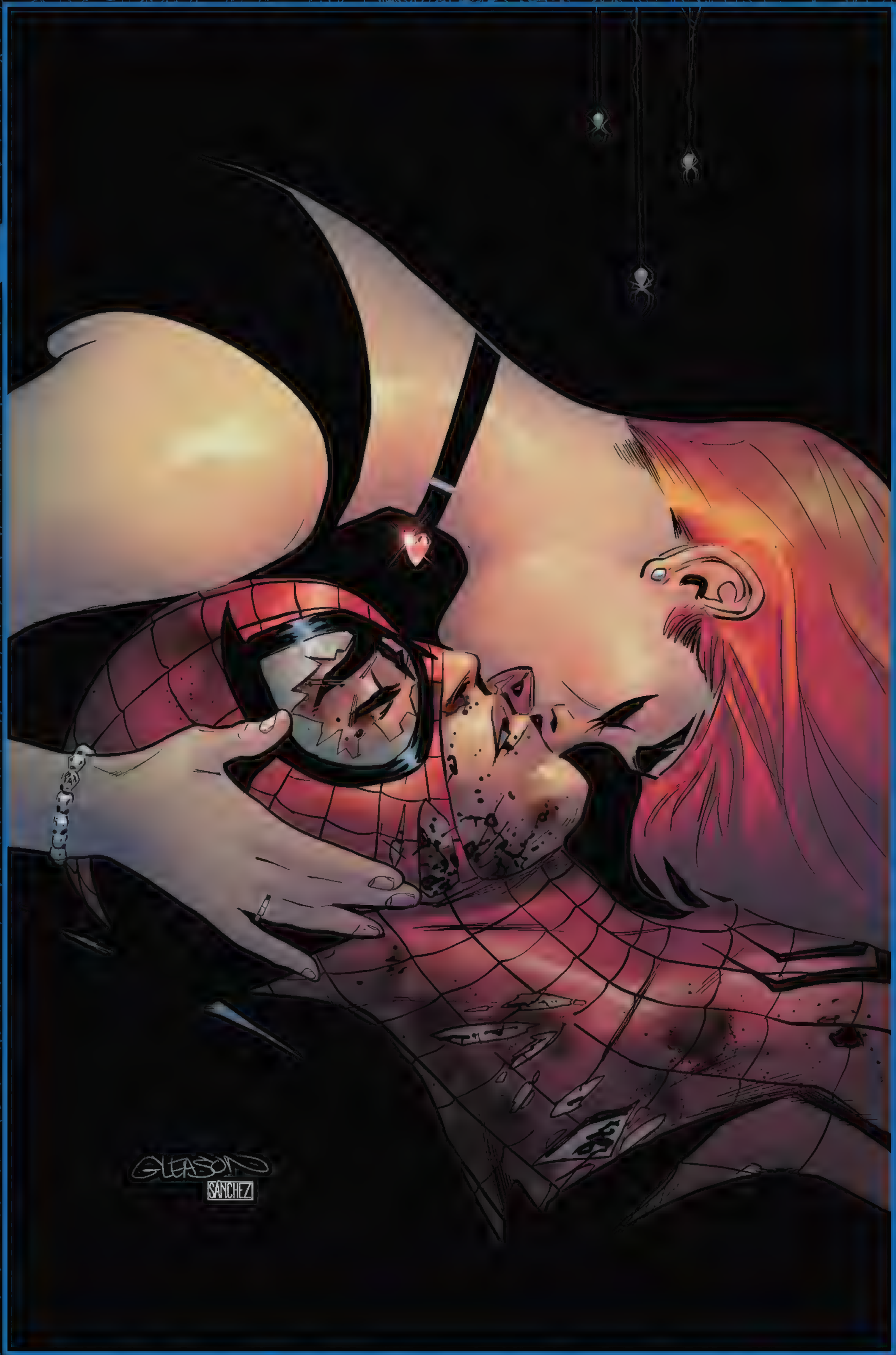
PATRICK GLEASON & ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ



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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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#85 VARIANT BY
LEINIL FRANCIS YU & SUNNY GHO

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*88 X-GWEN VARIANT BY
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#88 DESIGN VARIANT BY
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#88 2ND PRINTING VARIANT BY
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MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: BEYOND VARIANT BY
PHIL JIMENEZ & EDGAR DELGADO

MARY JANE & BLACK CAT: BEYOND VARIANT BY
ADAM HUGHES

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FACE IT, TIGER...

YOU JUST HIT JACK

THAT'S MY BIT!

AH!

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CORPORATION

#90 VARIANT BY
ROGÊ ANTÔNIO & MORRY HOLLOWELL

#91 CARNAGE FOREVER VARIANT BY
HUMBERTO RAMOS & **EDGAR DELGADO**

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PEACH MOMOKO

#93 WEBHEAD VARIANT BY
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#93 VARIANT BY
GERARDO SANDOVAL & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR

#93 VARIANT BY
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BEN REILLY IS BACK IN THE REDS-AND-BLUES!

THE BEYOND CORPORATION, owner of the **SPIDER-MAN TRADEMARK**, has installed everyone's favorite clone as its official web-slinger — with a new suit and some nifty upgrades! But where does that leave **PETER PARKER**? Is the neighborhood big enough for both of them, or will things turn decidedly unfriendly? Featuring the **BLACK CAT**, **MARY JANE WATSON**, **MILES MORALES**, **MORBIUS**, **KRAVEN**, **DOCTOR OCTOPUS** and the shocking debut of **QUEEN GOBLIN**!

Collecting *Amazing Spider-Man (2018) #75-93*, *#78.BEY*, *#80.BEY*, *#88.BEY*, *#92.BEY*; *Mary Jane & Black Cat: Beyond*; and material from *Amazing Spider-Man (2018) #74* and *Free Comic Book Day 2021: Spider-Man/Venom* — by Zeb Wells, Kelly Thompson, Jed MacKay, Cody Ziglar, Saladin Ahmed, Patrick Gleason, Geoffrey Thorne, Travel Foreman, Ivan Fiorelli, Sara Pichelli, Jim Towe, Eleonora Carlini, Michael Dowling, Carlos Gómez, Paco Medina, Jorge Fornés, Jan Bazaldua, Mark Bagley, Fran Galán, Zé Carlos, Bruno Oliveira, Luigi Zagaria, Carlos Villa, Wayne Faucher, Andrew Hennessy, Victor Olazaba, Roberto Poggi, Walden Wong, John Dell, Andy Owens, Tim Townsend, Marcio Menyz, Jim Campbell, Edgar Delgado, Nolan Woodard, Rachelle Rosenberg, Federico Blee, Jesus Aburtov, Erick Arciniega, Bryan Valenza, Nathan Fairbairn, Morry Hollowell, Espen Grundetjern, Brian Reber, Jim Charalampidis, Carlos Lopez and Alejandro Sánchez.

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